

Synod of the West

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JOHN D. STAUSS, STATED CLERK

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De Smet, South Dakota.

September 4, 1935

Dr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary

Board of Foreign Missions,

156 Fifth Avenue,

New York, N.Y.

Dear Brother:

The Synod of the West passed the following resolution at its last meeting:

Resolution of Sympathy

For Dr Robert E. Speer and Family:

The Synod of the West (German) has learned with deep sorrow of the great grief that has befallen you and your family circle. We assure you of our sincere Christian sympathy and pray that the Father of mercy and the God of all comfort may sustain and keep you and grant that even out of this heartbreaking experience there may come that spiritual enrichment which the Master has promised in the word: "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted".

Attest: John D. Stauss, Stated Clerk

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.  
156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

CBM:AMW

September 20, 1934.

TO ALL OUR FELLOW-WORKERS ON THE FIELD

Dear Friends:

We realize that you have been shocked and saddened by the tragic news of the assassination of Rev. Elliott Speer, older son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer. Since accounts of the tragedy are so fragmentary in the far-away press it seems wise and kindly to tell you the story so far as it is known and to reassure you of the grace of God which supports those who have experienced the sorrow.

On Friday evening, September 14th, shortly after his return from summer vacation, and before the opening of the Mount Hermon School near East Northfield, Massachusetts, of which he was Headmaster, Rev. Elliott Speer was in his study at his home at about 8:30 in the evening. Some one fired a heavily-loaded shotgun through a window of the study directly at him. Mrs. Speer and the three children were in other parts of the home. She heard the noise and came at once only to find her husband so badly wounded that before other aid could reach the house he passed away.

Dr. Robert E. Speer was at his summer home in Lakeville, Connecticut, on his annual month of vacation which he takes in September. Word was gotten to him at once. His younger son was at home and with Dr. and Mrs. Speer drove to East Northfield where they arrived about four o'clock Saturday morning. Since that time, of course, the American members of the family have been together. By a good providence Mrs. Elliott Speer's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Welles, were visiting them at the time and were in the house. Other friends arrived quickly but nothing could be done to correct the tragic evil.

A brief funeral service was held in the home at Mount Hermon at four o'clock on Sunday afternoon, September 16th, after which the family came to the family burying-ground at Englewood, New Jersey, for the interment. They then returned to Lakeville, Connecticut, where they will be for the present, going later to Mount Hermon for final adjustments there.

The news reached our offices on Saturday morning, the 15th, and of course influenced all that we did during the day. We closed the offices at 11:30 for a half hour of prayer in the Assembly Room. On Monday, the 17th, the first meeting of the Board for the season occurred, and was naturally under the spell of this great sorrow. It has been difficult to think of anything else. Our papers have given much attention to it.

The crime itself is utterly baffling. There is absolutely no clew thus far to the identity of the assassin or the reason for the crime. Ample marks have been found to indicate that it was deliberate murder, but its cause is a complete mystery. Mr. Speer was held in high and affectionate esteem by his colleagues and his students. Besides being Headmaster of the Mount Hermon School, he was Chairman of the Administrative Committee of The Northfield Schools, which embrace both the Mount Hermon School for boys and the Northfield Seminary for girls, and carried large



responsibilities in many lines. Many suggestions have been offered as to a possible reason for the attack, but investigation shows that each suggestion thus far is unsupported. The police authorities of the State of Massachusetts seem to be giving as thorough care to the matter as could be asked, and friends of the family are doing their utmost to aid in the investigation. It is clear that until some light is thrown on the crime there will be a sense of fear and dread both in the family and among the authorities of the Mount Hermon School. It cannot be known if this was one single crime or if there is some malice or mania which may lead to another. Up to this time there is nothing that points to the perpetrator of the deed or gives any explanation of it. Mr. Speer had prepared his opening address for the new year of the Mount Hermon School and it was read to the boys when the session opened on the 18th. They are deeply moved and grieved by his death.

You need not be told that Dr. Speer and his family, including Mrs. Elliott Speer, are bearing this sorrow as Christians of long and deep experience might bear it. The grace of God has not failed them, and though they are mystified and baffled by it they feel, as Dr. Speer has said, that "the only and adequate light is to think of what God allowed to happen in the life of His own dear Son and to be sure that even out of the deepest evil He can bring good." In our prayer service here in the building accent was laid on Romans 8:28 with its assurance that all things work together for good to them that love God. We sang the little hymn, "Near to the Heart of God," which many of you know was written in an hour of staggering sorrow. We would be utterly orphaned if there were no Father over this tragedy, and yet we are almost stunned when we face it as a fact.

There is a large current of sympathy running to Dr. and Mrs. Speer, the younger son William and Mrs. Elliott Speer and her children, and you may be sure that they are being strengthened by it. Our hearts go out to Dr. Speer's daughters, Miss Margaret Speer at Yenching Woman's College, Peiping, China, and Mrs. Constance Speer Barbour in London, England, whose distance will deepen their distress.

The Board placed on its Minutes this action, though its feelings cannot be put into words:

"The Board responds in personal grief to the sorrow that has befallen its beloved Senior Secretary in the tragic death of his son, the Rev. Elliott Speer, on September 14th. It assures Dr. and Mrs. Speer of its fellowship with them in this difficult hour, commending them to that grace of God to which their long Christian service has accustomed them and which will not now fail them. All the members of the Board would rejoice to find some effective method of manifesting their love and sympathy to the dear friends and the son William in America, to the daughter in China, so closely related to the Board, and to the daughter in England. We have shared in the family's pride in the son and his Christian character and service and we share therefore in the sorrow of this early transfer from his important earthly work to other service, even though we know him to be in safer and wiser hands than ours. Our faith in an overruling love of God and our assurance of His wider purposes which take up into themselves even the wrongs that men do and suffer can alone make this unexplained and ruinous tragedy endurable. Our thoughts include the great force of missionaries from all Churches who will be touched and solemnized by knowledge of the deep valley through which the household, so beloved among them, must go and we join their petition for comfort and peace. The President is requested to convey our expression of affectionate remembrance to Dr.

and Mrs. Speer and also to extend to Mrs. Elliott Speer its profound sympathy in this sudden bereavement.

"The Board desires Dr. Speer to extend his vacation so long as it may seem to him wise in order to secure adequate rest for his service during the coming year and also to minister in any way to the comfort of those who may especially need his care."

We have you much in mind for we realize how deeply your own hearts will be grieved by this inexplicable sorrow which has come to those whom you love as deeply as you do this stricken household.

Sincerely,

Cleland B. McAfee  
Irene Sheppard  
John A. Mackay  
Courtenay H. Fenn  
Russell Carter



VIDA D. SCUDDER  
45 LEIGHTON STREET  
WELLESLEY, MASS.

Dec. 22, '34

Dear Mrs. Speer, my heart will  
not be silent any longer. It has  
held you, day by day, close to the  
Heart of Love. My eyes can hardly  
strain to those far heights where you  
are called to dwell; heights where  
the most intense and varied ex-  
perience of Christian heroism must be  
yours. May our Adelparoad Cross, which  
you will remember, say to you all  
my words can not?

Respectfully and lovingly,  
Vida D. Scudder

Babilla Shummon

Dec 8: 1934

R. E. Spurr

Rebarch. Russia

Q77

JAN 1 1935 J. Spurr.

My Dear Mr. Spurr

Yours kind of October 25 just at hand in reply I would say that: at same time I received a letter from Mr. Muller. He wrote me a very sad report of the death of your good son that he was sent.

My Dear Mr. Spurr. and Mrs Spurr, Let me tell you 2 things:

- 1 let us remember that God is wise, then we are
- 2 look on Romans 8: 28.

and we know that, all things work together for good to them that love God &

Psalms 34: 18. The Lord is nigh  
unto them that are of a broken  
heart.

We have sympathy with  
you. Only God alone can  
comfort you.

We are all on the way to go  
to meet him in heaven.  
Dear Sir I am sorry to say  
that my weak eyes did not  
allow me to write fully  
about our work.

Since Mrs. Mary's left. I  
find my self under more  
responsibility  
now in the whole field we  
have 5 ordained ministers  
2 young men who study  
theology. Last summer I  
visit mission field. I find



Good many members of  
our Church are living  
Mesamia, going to different  
part of Persia to Baghdad  
I believe that will take a short  
time most Christians people  
will accompany.

Kindly remember me to your  
good wife, tell her that  
we are all going to that place  
there is no harm in it

Yours very sincerely  
Bahalla Shumun

I have very poor Eyes

But good memory  
thank God for it

B. S.

TWO HUNDRED AND NINETEEN WALNUT STREET  
ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Emma dearest:

You and Bob and  
Blessed Lady are especially  
close to me these days  
as the anniversary of  
Elliot's translation approaches.

How well I remember -  
Marmie's face the day she  
told us the dreadful  
news - a face that even  
then wore a smile, but a  
smile that comes through -



through and I felt I wanted you  
to feel our especial love full of  
tender miss for you. There are no  
words that can express it, so I  
shall not try, but you will know.  
I stopped in at the cemetery a  
little while ago and found all  
green and peaceful. I loved the  
way the hills of the valley had  
been trained to form a semi circle  
on little Eleanor's grave - just

suffering rather than of joy.

Brave she was then and  
through the weeps that  
followed, thinking always  
of others than of self.

I thought then how truly  
she was following in  
the foot steps of the Master  
just as you were also  
doing, and I could not but  
be deeply thankful for  
such lives of consecration.  
And yet with all this—  
the work will be a hard  
one for you to pass

the shape of a beautiful  
new moon. It was a  
comfort to stand there  
and feel that Elliott's  
loving spirit was caring  
for the two precious  
little girls - for to us  
they will always be child-  
ren - will they not?

Please do not acknowledge  
this - just believe that my  
love is reaching out to  
you all at this time.

Ever with tenderest love

Beth

September 11, 1935 -



Dear Dr & Mrs. Spear:-

Roberta and I have just returned from Wooster Ohio where we went to take Elaine off for her second year in College. We have been greatly shocked over the tragic loss of your son and we wish to express our sincerest sympathy to you in this hour of sadness.

May the One in whom we trust sustain you in your loss, which we cannot understand, and may He strengthen those that are left to rely upon the comfort He has promised.

Florence has now been in the hospital fourteen months, her nerve having broken in her desire to be brave after the loss of our Lois. Surely God does not expect us to bear the loss without tears but how thankful we should be that He can dry those tears and ease the sting.

Again may we pray that God will keep you strong in this loving care.  
Your sincere friend,

Clarence A. Suter,

Sept. 20, 1934

dear Dr. Spear—

In the great joy  
which has come to you & Mrs.  
Spear, you will know how  
deeply all your friends every  
where with you. So is the  
compassionate Spirit of Christ  
fulfilled among us.

Believe me

Faithfully yours

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AUGUSTINE SCHAFFER

September 18<sup>th</sup>

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer -

Saturday morning was a most distressful one at the Board. We all felt so keenly how cruel was the blow which had been dealt to honored friends. Our beautiful service at the close of the morning helped to restore our calm and confidence.

I can imagine how messages of sympathy & love have come pouring in. May I also join in extending to you and to all members of the family my own deep sympathy in your great sorrow.

Very sincerely yours,  
Augustine Schafer



57  
83 HIGH STREET

CATSKILL, N. Y.

September 17, 1934.

Dear Robert & Mrs. Speer:

I am greatly shocked to learn of the tragedy that has entered your lives and home, and I hasten to express my deepest regret and sympathy for you and the stricken family of your son .

My <sup>o</sup>live and prayers go with my sympathy for you who have been so long in the circle of those I most love and esteem.

With abiding affection, I am ever and to the end your-

"Uncle"

Geo. C. Hubbs

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
PRINCETON, N. J.

Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 1934

Dear Robert:-

Our thoughts and hearts  
have been turning ever since we  
you and Emma ever since we  
heard the shocking news of dear  
Elliott's tragic death - and have  
joined our prayers with those of  
a wide circle - that you may  
have grace and strength which  
alone can give in time of trial -  
We can not understand why  
such a sorrow should come to  
you - unless it be that you  
should demonstrate to the whole  
Christian Church that unswerving  
faith - and steadfast courage  
of heart - which will inspire  
others to patiently endure and

have had comfort- where with you  
on comforted of God- when we  
think of Elliott going- just in the  
threshold of a great career- when  
the world has need of him- we are  
reminded of our Master- who could  
say in his early thirties- I have  
finished the work that gavest me  
to do- and he was to do greater  
things by going away than by  
staying here- We had you  
especially in mind at the F. F. V.  
ave. church- when I preached on  
Sunday- and as the Seminary  
begins another year- the large  
circle of friends then- will have  
you in loving remembrance-  
Hence joins me in affectionate  
regards-

Ever your friend  
Ross

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Dr and Mrs R.E. Spear,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear friends:- It is so  
hard to believe the news we  
have read in our news-  
papers and also heard  
over the radio of the death  
of your son Elliot.

I fully realize the  
shock it has been to  
you for I know what  
the passing of loved  
ones means, having lost



both husband and son  
almost as suddenly as  
the going of your dear one.

How I wish my hus-  
band were here now to  
write to you words of  
comfort for he was able  
to bring peace and solace  
to so many broken hearts.

However, I felt I must  
write to tell you how my  
heart aches for you and  
my prayers ascend  
for you without ceasing.

Our Father is kind and  
He will keep underneath,  
The "everlasting arms".

Accept all his promises  
for I know from experience  
He will not fail.

With loving sympathy.

Mrs. H. C. Belle C. Swearingen  
813 Goodrich Ave.  
Saint Paul, Minn.

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TREETOP  
WEST CORNWALL  
CONNECTICUT

My dear dear Friends,

My heart has been aching for you, and I have been longing to see you to tell you how you have been in my thoughts every minute since I heard of your overwhelming sorrow!

I feel that my earthly

With deep love,  
your long-time friend  
Katharine

September sixteenth.

father is very near you  
at this time, and I know  
that our Heavenly Father  
is giving you the strength  
that never fails.

Perhaps ~~that~~ you know  
that our son Henry  
was taken swiftly away  
from us by an automo-  
bile accident, so we can  
feel for you the most  
understanding sympathy.

Sam is not here, but  
he will write you himself.





57

HOTEL BRISTOL  
Berlin

Unter den Linden 56

Telegr. Adr. Bristolhotel.

Tel. Nr. 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120

Sept. 17, 1904

Dear Robert

I have just read  
of the tragic death of your  
noble son Elliot.Please accept for myself  
and the entire family  
my deepest sympathy.That silence speaks a  
poor way for one's  
heart to express its  
real feeling. But  
human words are  
feeble at best in such  
an hour.

God bless you

Sincerely

Fred B. Smith

87

1117 West St.,  
Emporia, Kansas.  
Sept. 16, 1934

Dear Dr. Speer,

Mrs. Stuart and  
I have read in the papers  
with grief and honor of your  
son Eliot's cruel death by  
assassination, and are so sorry  
such a shock and sorrow  
has come to you. To you and  
others of the family, goes out  
our deepest sympathy in this  
hour of bereavement. But  
even here there is comfort  
in the thought of his noble life

and unselfish service,  
leaving a memory that even  
a wanton slaying cannot  
spoil. Our hearts and  
prayers are with you all  
at this time.

Do not trouble to acknowledge  
this note, for you have many  
claims upon your time and  
strength. It is a simple heartfelt  
expression of the sympathy  
that all your friends must  
feel.

Sincerely yours,

Warren H. Stuart.

HITCHCOCK MEMORIAL CHURCH  
HARTSDALE, NEW YORK

MINISTERS

GEORGE HUGH SMYTH, D.D.  
WILLIAM PIERSON MERRILL, JR.

Sept. 17. 1934 -

Rev Robert E. Speer D.D.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York -

Dear Dr. Speer:-

My heart goes out  
to you and your dear Ones - we  
this morning hoped that  
has taken your little son -  
Surely do we "see thus a glass  
darkly" - It so hard for us not

HITCHCOCK MEMORIAL CHURCH  
HARTSDALE, NEW YORK

MINISTERS

GEORGE HUGH SMYTH, D.D.  
WILLIAM PIERSON MERRILL, JR.

- 2 -

to ask why such things happen.

But our Faith does keep our feet  
from slipping and we know that  
however death comes - death is  
just the contact between Time &

Eternity. May the enclosed lines  
help you - as much as they have  
me and others - under their heavy  
burden clouds - of the death

storm. In deepest sympathy -  
Your friend  
George H. Smyth.



## “Some Time at Eve”

By LIZZIE CLARK HARDY



Some time at eve, when the tide is low,  
I shall slip my mooring and sail away,  
With no response to the friendly hail  
Of kindred craft in the busy bay.  
In the silent hush of the twilight pale,  
When the night stoops down to embrace  
the day,

And the voices call in the water's flow—  
Some time at eve, when the tide is low,  
I shall slip my mooring and sail away.

A few who have watched me sail away  
Will miss my craft from the busy bay.  
Some friendly barks that were anchored  
near,

Some loving souls that my heart held dear,  
In silent sorrow will drop a tear—  
But I shall have peacefully furled my sail  
In moorings sheltered from storm or gale,  
And greeted the friends who have sailed  
before

O'er the Unknown Sea to the Unseen  
Shore.

17

1969 Cardigan ave.,  
Columbus, Ohio

My dear Dr and Mrs Greer.

To you in your hour of  
trial I send ~~assurance~~  
sympathy and prayers -

Jane Samuel.

57

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. 1934

THE LAKESIDE  
EAGLESMERE, PENNA.

Dear Friends

We were much  
distressed to learn of the  
sorrow which has befallen  
you in the death of your  
son. Our hearts go out  
to you in loving sympathy,  
and we pray that the God  
of all comfort console you  
in grief and strength  
according to your need

2  
Vows in the Bond of  
Christian Fellowship

Dr. Mrs. J. Ritchie (widow)

87

69 B Ave Street  
New York City

September 17, 1934

Dear Specs.

It was not until this afternoon that the news came to me. I feel very badly that I was not in Englewood today.

I shall be thinking of you all constantly in the next days. No other family will ever be quite like the Specs. You all mean so much to us.

Mother and Father will



be wishing they were here.

My dearest love to you all,

Appie Sailer

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ARTHUR T. SCOTT  
MADISON, CONNECTICUT

16 September, 1934

Dear Friends, -

Mrs. Scott and I are shocked beyond expression  
over the news in the papers about your splendid son Elliott.  
May the Father of us all sustain you and comfort  
you, and yours. Our heart-felt love and sympathy  
go out to you.

Sincerely,

Arthur T. Scott.

57

21 West 33<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> / 1934-

Dear Dr. Sprue -

I have not found words to express my sympathy for you and all your family during these passing days -

I know a great mass of love and heart-felt sympathy has gone out to you from all over the world, and above all our Heavenly Father is with you, sustaining you and

Making it possible for  
you to go on -

My daughter joins in  
our warmest wishes  
for you.

Very Sincerely Yours -  
Mary Ann and Shirley  
Mrs G. H.

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LAW OFFICES  
SAMUEL SCOVILLE, JR.  
1307 PENNSYLVANIA BUILDING  
15TH AND CHESTNUT STREETS  
PHILADELPHIA

20 September  
1934

Dear Rob,-

I have only recently learned of your great sorrow & I want you to know how deeply I sympathize with you. May God bless you & comfort you both & I know that He will - for we sorrow not as those that have no hope. Yet I know the bitter sense of loss & the loneliness - for I lost two of my boys - but we both share the same hope of meeting again beyond this life where there will be no parting.

Affectionately  
Dan



016

156 Fifth Avenue  
Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 1934

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Lee:

We are all so much that I do  
not think we can do much work  
this morning, but just remind  
each other nothing can separate us  
from God's love, and that that love  
never faileth. Ever since reading  
my paper, coming in on the bus  
this morning, I have been recalling  
my first memory of Elliott. It

come into his bed, for he was frightened - but  
as the worst was over Dr. Lee had urged him  
to stay in his own little bed, for he would be  
more comfortable - Then Eliott said "well,  
father, will you keep your face turned toward  
me in the dark?" and when Dr. Lee promised  
him, he went off to sleep - Since and again,  
I have thought of that little lad being comforted  
by his father's assurance that his face was  
turned toward him, altho' it was so pitch dark  
he could not see if it were so - I have only seen  
Eliott four times since that day, but always  
did I feel he showed a confidence that he was  
going forward with his father's face turned toward  
him, altho' the path was not clear far ahead.

In the darkness I feel the morning, I know  
God's face is turned toward us - but we do long  
for the morning when the shadows will flee  
away - My love and thoughts are with you -  
and the hope that William is there and not  
down South

Frederic Sheppard

has our first summer at Camp  
Dumond - we were strolling down  
"main street" after a night of fearful  
wind and storm, comparing notes.  
Much damage had been done by  
the wind, and the force of the  
elements was most unbridled -  
The Sheppards had been awake  
most of the night in their cabin.

As we warmed ourselves in the sun-  
shine Mr. Lee came along - When  
we asked him for all had feared,  
he said that Elliott had been  
waked up by it and wanted to

Sept. 18.

ack. on 11

THE REV. SAMUEL M. SHOEMAKER, JR.

CALVARY RECTORY  
61 GRAMERCY PARK, NORTH



57

Chicago, Illinois.  
Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 1934

Dr Robert E. Speer,  
New York City.  
Dear Bob,

While the hearts of innumerable friends all over the world have been deeply touched by the great sorrow and almost unbearable grief which has so recently visited your home and family, I want you to know and feel that the heart of this old college friend and foot-ball associate has been overflowing with the deepest sympathy for you during these sad hours.

Those who have felt the touch of your ministry, your friends and associates are all comforted by the assurance that the Father of us all and Jesus Christ, His Son, whose cause you have

so faithfully presented all over the world and consistently upheld in your own life will now bring to you and your family that comfort which He alone can give and which human hands and hearts feel and are so helpless to supply.

May the loving arms of the Saviour of us all surround and sustain you now and throughout your life is my earnest prayer to Him for you.

Your old friend  
Henry L. Savage  
"Simons."



57

The Huntington

23 Pearl St.

Hempstead, N.Y.

My dear Mr. & Mrs. Green

My heart

aches with yours in the shock &  
tragedy which has come into  
your lives. It all seems so

cruel, ~~my~~ serious & difficult - to  
comprehend! One wonders  
why such things must be.

It requires great faith + trust  
+ enduring courage to carry on  
after such a crushing shoeing  
tragedy + sorrow. But knowing  
you both so well + for so many  
years I am fully aware  
of the depth, beauty + peace  
of your wonderful Christian  
characters + that having dedicated  
your lives to the Lord work  
you will both continue to the end of time.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

I just want to let  
 you know that with your  
 great multitude of friends,  
 I am thinking of you  
 and praying for you.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Ann's Sister  
 September twentieth, 1888  
 1844

116 WARREN STREET  
BROOKLINE  
MASSACHUSETTS

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Saturday

My dear Mr. Speer -

Harold and I  
want you to know how  
very much the Memorial  
Service meant to us.

It was the most tremend-  
ous help to us, and  
I know to all Elliotts'  
lost of friends, to  
see the wonderful  
spirit of faith which

With our kindest regards to you  
and Mrs. Allen -

Agnes Brown Stuart

you hold in the face  
of such tragedy. I am  
not exaggerating in  
telling you that that  
service was the most  
improving experience of  
my life, and will con-  
tinue to be so. How  
proud you all must feel  
to have had Elliott!

I hope that when  
your address is printed,  
Hawthorne and I may be  
included in the list  
of friends to whom it  
is sent.



George Stebbins

83 HIGH STREET

CATSKILL-ON-HUDSON, N. Y.

Nov. 27/34

Dear Robert.

I wish I could tell you how much good it did my heart to get your loving and tender greetings that came along with messages from other friends Mrs Hunt came from me with a while ago.

I never think of you but with a consciousness of warmest love and affection, so lovely and kind you have always been. And your lovely and tender message touches

me deeply, I am therefore grate-  
ful beyond words to express.

You have been for my years than  
I can remember like a son to  
me which has been an ever present  
blessing to me.

I think of you, and Mrs Spear too,  
in these past few weeks as passing  
through deep waters, and always with  
deepest sympathy, and with the thoughts  
recall the passing of my own son  
with the dread and incurable dis-  
ease of Cancer. How inevitable  
are God's providences, and yet we  
can but trust Him and patiently wait

83 HIGH STREET

CATSKILL-ON-HUDSON, N. Y.

His revelations.

On the first of May, dear Robert,  
I gave up my 51-year-old home  
in Brooklyn to spend the rest of  
my days here with my sister in  
her comfortable home where I  
have spent my summers with  
her for many years.

I am thankful to say we are very  
comfortably and happily fixed, and  
especially that we both keep well.  
I have lost ground since seeing  
you, especially in my hearing

as that is nearly gone. I can't  
walk so well, but I keep going  
and am thankful to feel well.

If you can come and see us some  
time it would be a blessing to  
me in the days when shadows  
are lengthening.

Please give my love to Mrs  
Spur and accept from me  
my heart's warmest love and  
affection.

Gratefully

Wm. L. Hargreaves

020

Rev. Philip Allen Swartz, D. D.,

SECRETARY

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES  
OF CHRIST IN AMERICA

105 E. TWENTY-SECOND ST.  
NEW YORK

Kindly accept

526

my sympathy

Doctor Henry Mann Silver

One hundred and thirty  
East Thirty-ninth Street



612

GREENWICH HOUSE

27 BARROW STREET, NEW YORK

CHelsea 2-4140

Affiliated with  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Sept 17. 1934.

Dear Dr. Klee:  
Just a word. Only to say how  
all the young leaders who came to this neighborhood  
your son was outstanding - in understanding,  
in outlook, in courtesy, in charm.

The irrevocable event moves me deeply  
& I send you my deepest sympathy.

Sincerely yours

Max K. Lischinsky.

Dear Do. and Mrs. Speer! 613

This to tell you how much I am with you in thought and sympathy in your great sorrow.

Only those who have passed thru the waters know how deep they are, but only those, know how strong is the loving arm of our Father who

holds us up and gently guides  
all the way.

I need say no more, because  
you have that Ann, and He  
will help us to look up and see  
the Glories that our loved ones  
are now sharing, and it makes  
us homesick for Heaven.

With great love.

(Mrs. A. F.)

Thos. De Mour.

add.

Mrs. H. Boughton Smith

Montgomery - Mass.

528

Mrs.  
Mr. Denis Francis Sweeney  
with sincerest sympathy.  
Englewood, New Jersey

618

J. E. SHOEMAKER  
YUYAO, CHE. PROV.  
CHINA

Sept. 20, 1934.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Spicer:-

The sad news of Elliott's untimely and cruel death fills our hearts with sorrow, and we write a few lines to give expression to our sincere sympathy <sup>with</sup> you in this time of sore bereavement.

We are joining with your countless friends in all parts of the world in earnest intercessions on your behalf; fully assured that the God of all comfort will

not only fulfil to you the promise  
of His unfailing presence in your  
time of trouble, but will also make  
your time of dire need for help an  
opportunity for new and yet fuller  
revelations of His unfathomable love,  
such as you could not know otherwise.

We cannot fathom the mystery which en-  
shrouds the "why" of such calamities;  
but we know that God is good and His  
love <sup>will</sup> someday make everything clear: and



then it will be seen that He whom even "the  
wrath of man shall praise" is able to bring  
blessing out of every misfortune; and what  
now seems to us unmixed evil will then  
be recognized as the back ground of a  
wondrous revelation of God's goodness to  
his children. "Though He slay me yet will  
I trust in Him" seemed a foolish state-  
ment when Job made it, but his faith  
was abundantly vindicated.

Mrs "H" and I join in this expression  
of our loving sympathy. Your friend,  
J. E. Throckmole.

P.S. It occurs to me to give our new address  
as we are leaving China within a few weeks.  
Till Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, mail can be sent to us c/o Dr.  
J.C. Condit, 5357 Lawton Ave., Oakland, Calif.  
and after that to our own cottage 5365 Lawton  
Ave..  
You have of course learned of Mrs Wright's  
loss of sight in her right eye on account  
of high blood pressure. She is perfectly well  
otherwise, but this being the third warning  
of its kind the doctor fears the next  
hemorrhage may be cerebral and so has

commanded complete cessation of work and only allows her to leave her bed one hour in each 24.

There being apparently little hope of further service on the field she is making preparations for the return to the U.S., and hopes to sail next April if suitable arrangements can be made for travel-companion etc.

Yours very sincerely,  
J. R. V.

ack.  
Oct. 17. 1895.

42 HOWLAND AVENUE  
TORONTO

14. 10. 34.

Dear Mrs. Speer:

We have learned in Canada  
of the sore bereavement which  
has come to you, and I have been  
asked to assure you, on behalf  
of our National Council of our  
deep sympathy with you. As  
members of the Association fam-  
ily we grieve with you. While  
we are confident that you are  
fortified and consoled by the  
consciousness of the upholding

of the Everlasting Arms of Love,  
we realize a little of the lone-  
liness of soul which the sever-  
ing of such a close human  
tie has wrought.

Perhaps you may remember  
what Forbes Robinson in one of  
his "Letters" wrote to a friend  
whose brother had been killed  
by lightning. "I do not pray  
that you may get over this  
sorrow", he said, "but that  
you may get through it,  
right to the heart of God."

With warmest sympathy,  
Believe me,

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Robert W. Angus } Mary L. Angus  
President National Council of the  
Young Women's Christian Association  
of the Dominion of Canada.

51

# DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINE

ORIENT  
AND  
ROUND THE WORLD

ON BOARD  
S.S. PRESIDENT WILSON

Sept 26, 1934

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Spier,

We are

thinking of you at this time  
with the utmost sympathy.

I was always proud to know  
Elliott and I can remember

what profound impression

he made on me when I  
was a student at  
Andover and he



Came to speak at the  
Society of Inquiry. He  
always stood for what  
was the highest and best.

Our prayers are with you.

Very sincerely,

Theodore Stevenson.



# DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

NEW YORK - CALIFORNIA  
TO THE ORIENT AND  
ROUND THE WORLD



ON BOARD

S.S. Pres. Wilson

Sept. 26, 1934.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

Ted and I were shocked to read of the death of your son, just before we sailed, and our loving sympathy has followed you ever since. It is a sad thing that he was taken in the prime of his power and with such a field of influence, but it is a wonderful thing that he was so fitted to go to his new home as well as to remain here. I know there must be joy in your hearts that he is so completely happy and completely safe now, as we feel he must be. But our hearts go out to you and the other dear

ones left behind for the emptiness that must always come at first.

Please be assured of our loving thoughts and prayers at this time.

It is difficult to talk of weddings in the face of something so much bigger, and yet Ted and I want you to know how much we appreciated your thought of us on our wedding day, and the table spread you so kindly sent us.

Thank you so much, both for the lovely gift and the interest and friendship that prompted it. Sometime we hope we can entertain you in our Canton home; meanwhile, thank you for contributing a share to it and to our new happiness.

Very sincerely yours friend,  
Beatrice Scott Stevenson.

Monterey - Mass - wpm.

October third, '34 - our  
Has lost 11 children  
- 26 in all

My dear Mrs. Speer -

At Guild Fairs, recently.

I learned that the young  
College president, shot, was  
your son, and it shocked  
me greatly - I've lost four  
children - a grown son, burned  
to death, another lovely boy  
of eleven yrs. by accident -  
and a darling daughter  
of seventeen yrs. left as one  
Christmas Eve - and a baby  
daughter - My remaining

son, with whom I spent  
some time last winter and  
who was a former trustee  
of Mr. Moldenhawse's church -  
and the two small grand-  
children, are a joy to me -  
So, I'm known here, and  
my heart goes out to you -  
in loving sympathy

Most Sincerely -

Maritta S. Smith

(As H. Brighton)

ack.

Haarford,  
Pennsylvania.

My dear dear Emma, -

I longed to go  
and see you before I  
left Connecticut, but I  
think you knew that  
we had no way of  
driving over, so I could  
only sit in our Treetop  
thinking of you with  
the deepest love and

good byes when we left  
Cornwall last Monday. Alice is  
at last recovering, but Billy  
is not yet well from the in-  
fection which came from over-  
work, and the doctors do not  
know when he can start with  
his hospital residency at the  
Cornell Medical Centre.

Always with love to you  
and Rob from Sam and  
Katharine.  
October seventh.

sympathy. Young Mrs.  
Wagner (who was a class-  
mate of Alice's at Vassar)  
told me how wonder-  
fully brave you all  
were, and we knew  
you would be. Both  
times that I telephoned  
her, it was ~~all~~ almost  
impossible for Alice or  
me to hear her, so I  
thought it would not  
be at all satisfactory  
to telephone you our



ack

MRS. GEORGE T. SCOTT  
207 INWOOD AVENUE  
UPPER MONTCLAIR, N. J.

Dear dear Mrs. I fear -

I only

want to say - in a few  
heart sincere words - that  
we are all of us sorrowing  
with you & your dear ones -  
we are loving you tenderly  
than ever before. And  
praying for you with every  
prayer we send to our  
heavenly Father. May He  
be very - very near to each  
one of you. Devotedly  
Ruth

57  
REV. ALEXANDER SPRUNT  
92 SOUTH BATTERY  
CHARLESTON, S. C.

September 18<sup>th</sup> 1934.

Rev. Dr. Robt E. Speer  
Englewood N. J.

My dear Dr. Speer:

In common with the multitude of friends, and grateful hearers of the Word this past season at Montreal, as well as the many throughout our Southland, our hearts are bleeding for you and Mrs. Speer, as we read of the awful sorrow which has fallen so heavily on you.

This is another of God's mysterious providences, that He should suffer such a deed to one so used of Him in directing the mind and heart of our youth. What a splendid work he was engaged in, and yet God in His wisdom and love called him, - but how we deplore the method! - But He knows best, and "what we know not now, we shall know hereafter."

With assurance of our sympathy and esteem

We are very sincerely Yours

Alexander and Nellie R. Sprunt

402.  
402.

MRS. A. EVANS SWARTWOUT  
35 CHESTNUT STREET  
CLINTON, NEW YORK

Oct 16, 1834.

Mrs. Robert E. Speer,

My dear Mrs. Speer,

Unknown to you, yet as one of the  
women who have gained new insight and a  
broader sight, through Presbyterials, may  
I send my word of deep appreciation for  
the little "Lord, Teach Me To Pray", which was  
recommended to my daughter at a Union  
Conference, by our Pres. Sec. of Literature.

a Week or so before our Presbyterian in Rome  
day! so that at the crowded table, I knew what  
to look for, and came home with extra ones  
to share with some of my friends who, would  
I knew, appreciate some of the many allusions  
to books, hymns, people, places, as I did -  
Lena has the sight of the mountains of Chile - My daughter  
in Law just <sup>informed</sup> ~~told~~ that my husband to meet my son, and  
she parroted "It is worth the trip for two in such beauty" -  
Your son, near the same age, has taken a different  
journey, when without doubt the beauty of the  
heights he is seeing are as far beyond

our vision, as the mountains of Chile  
are beyond the slopes of College Hill  
beautiful as ~~is~~ Hamilton-College  
Chapel as I ~~saw~~ it - from my  
window, the pen touching it to shining  
pines above the autumn tinted  
trees. Just before starting for Rome  
for that meeting with its inspiring

We need of Vicar's prayers  
Sincerely Mary B. Swarthout  
Messages from Mrs. Kittman and  
Mrs. Sively, and indeed the whole  
Program, including the conversation  
on the ride over, I was able to hear the  
"Cheerio" program with the beautiful  
rendering of "Sweet Hour of Prayer".  
We, neighbors, and our own family un-  
derstand "Recreation" a year ago, I found it  
in the library after I heard it quoted  
on a "Cheerio" Program. Returned it the day

Springfield, Ill.,  
Sept. 21, 1934.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

The God of all comfort  
is the only source of peace in  
such a sorrow as has come  
to you, and I am thankful  
that you have His comfort.  
And whatever touch human  
sympathy can bring, I want  
you to know your sorrow  
is mine too, and I wish that  
in sharing it your sorrow  
may be softened.

Affectionately,  
Florence Schaffer.



Gr  
Gd Hotel du Vesuvio  
Naples

TELEGR.: "VESUVHOTEL,,

Sept 19. 1934.

Dear Mr. Spurr: - This sad news in the  
Paris - Chicago Tribune is crushing. I can  
imagine only faintly what it must be to  
you & Mrs. Spurr. My cable of "Loving Sympathy"  
of this morning & these poor words by letter  
cannot express anything of my depth of  
emotion over this cruel tragedy to Elliott's  
loved one and to society at large which  
needs so sorely his splendid type. We all  
miss him.

May God sustain you both richly.

Devotedly Yours,

George Scott

67

Dear Dr. Speer

Lois and I wish to express to  
you, our beloved secretary, and to  
your wife, our deepest love and  
sympathy, thru this experience  
that has just overtaken you,  
word of which has come to  
us through the papers.

How we can rejoice in  
times such as these that we  
are Christians. We, who work  
among the non-Christians  
of the world, can at no time

6643 Dalzell Place  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Sept. 24, 1934

appreciate our heritage more  
than when we face such  
experiences as these.

We have you constantly  
in our thoughts and  
prayers. May we unite with  
Paul in the prayer that "the  
peace of God, which passeth  
all understanding, shall guard  
your hearts and your thoughts  
in Christ Jesus."

Most affectionately  
P. Lisle Steiner

## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

**Received at**

GR33 VIA RCA=F PEIPING 10 SEP 16 1851

LC SPEER=

EASTNORTHFIELDMASS=

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

MY HEART IS WITH YOU ALL=

=MARNIE.

807A

## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN (25) UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
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Received at 40 Broad Street, (Central Cable Office), New York, N. Y. ALWAYS OPEN 24 SEP 18 AM 3 27

FU24 VIA RCA=F PEIPING 17 18 1528 MS

LC SPEER INCULCATE=SPEER % 'INCULCATE' PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

NYK=

156 FIFTH AVE

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO YOU EMMA AND HOLLY FROM ALL THE SAILERS.

Our prayers and thoughts  
abide with you all

With deepest sympathy I am

This is to carry  
my heart-message  
to you - not to be  
answered

Sincerely yours

Frederic Deluc

<sup>ad.</sup>  
My very dear Mrs Spur,

Philadelphia

Words seem  
so useless when ones heart  
would speak. My thoughts <sup>and</sup>  
prayers have been with you  
and with Dr Spur <sup>constantly</sup> since



The news came to me.

I think of your son as he led  
us into Communion with our Lord  
at the Service, in July, at Northfield.  
I know our dear Lord himself is  
giving to you and to Dr. Spurr  
the strength, the peace  
the comfort in these days,  
and the Home of your  
wonderful son as he now  
serves our Lord in His  
immediate presence.



BLUE HILLS 3017

ack. /

242 HIGHLAND STREET  
MILTON

Very dear Eileen -

As I scan the  
papers every day for a solution  
of your tragedy I grieve for  
some reason or other that  
we can not reach you and

Robert an assurance of our  
sympathy and understanding.  
That is if we can have  
any understanding of a  
blow such as yours and  
"Tolly's". To think of  
a band being raised against  
Elliot, so clean, so fine  
so just and splendid in  
every way, and above all so  
fruitful is past comprehension.

Please accept, tho' belated  
our dearest love and sympathy.  
It is barely possible that I  
may have a few hours in  
New York next month and

so I shall surely try to see you  
always with affection  
Agnes L. Leachpole

Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>

ack.

1621 BOSWELL AVENUE  
TOPEKA, KANSAS

October 1.

My dear Mrs. Speer, No word has come from me because with all your wealth of faith, experience, and friends there seemed no place for my word of sympathy. Today however I felt it must go.

Our human limitations are most baffling in the presence of such an experience. We do need to know so much more: to accept such a blow — not only the personal part of it but its seeming damage to life of world.

I was so sorry that you left Philadelphia before I had an

opportunity to speak to you. The number of those that go back thru the years is getting small.

We are thinking of you here and believing that you are able to meet this calamity with a courage that is only known to those whose faith can not be shaken.

With much keen sympathy  
Emmie B. Sweet.

ack,

Easton

Pa

My dear Mrs. Speer -

I am just one  
of the many women at  
Pennsylvania Synodical  
meeting who felt the  
blessing of your leadership  
in the devotional moments,  
and the benediction of your  
presence thru those days  
— and who hesitated to  
go to you personally with  
their deep appreciation -



ever been my privilege to see -  
Nothing can measure what you  
- and Dr. Speer - have done for  
us who were at Williamsport -  
- and we who love and admire  
you both - are not unmindful  
of the cost to you -

May I - who have been since my  
College days, an ardent admirer of  
Dr. Speer - express to him, also, thru you,  
my gratitude and appreciation of  
his masterly address on Wednesday  
evening? Dr. Speer has no more  
sympathetic and enthusiastic listeners  
in any audience, than myself, and I  
never miss an opportunity to be in  
his audience! It was my great  
privilege to hear you, also, at Mrs.  
Lewis' home here in Easton last spring.

I hope this has not been an  
intrusion, dear Mrs. Speer, but  
the mountain-top experience with  
you was so rare - and the power  
of God made so vividly real - in  
your magnificent courage and radiant  
faith - that I just had to try to ex-  
press to you something of what it  
meant to me.

With deepest thanks and tender affection,  
Sincerely yours - Helen M. Stonecipher

I wanted so much - to speak  
to you, and to say Thank  
you - and I refrained  
only because it seemed  
to me the greater kindness  
not to challenge that mar-  
vellous courage and self-  
control of yours - an iota  
further -

But may I write my  
Thank you - and say that  
I shall never, never forget  
the inspiration of your words  
- and the testimony of the  
most beautiful, most glorious  
courage and faith and  
selflessness that it has

My profound sympathy  
is yours, with life-long  
affection, and precious memories

Mrs John Sparhawk Jr.

Faithfully yours  
Alice L. J. Spaulding

353 Farmington Avenue  
Hartford

ack,  
—

"Sorrowing but not as  
those who have no hope"  
my dearest sympathy

Mrs. Frederick Emerson Stockwell  
and love

Jenny -

ack,

ack.

Reading

RESIDENCE: PIERMONT-ON-HUDSON  
POST OFFICE, ORANGEBURG, R. F. D. 1  
NEW YORK

Sep 76-1934.

Dear Mamma: Words are so futile.  
I know that I could express to  
you & Rob, the depth of my  
feeling. — It is all so unbelievable.  
I hear that the little Ray, who  
was my reading, should be  
taken from us. — Where he is  
most needed. — God grant that  
you both, may have the  
strength — I hear this over —  
whelming sorrow. —  
My dearest love. I understand.

standing by my side. —  
If I could only do some thing  
to really help. — but I real-  
ize how truly helpless we  
are. — I am thinking of  
praying for you both.  
Love  
Margaret  
(the other female).



2609

ack.

BRAE TARN  
KHAKUM WOOD  
GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT

My dear Mother:

What can  
I say to you; nothing  
except I send  
my love and  
deepest sincerest  
sympathy in your  
very great sorrow.

I have thought of you  
constantly since  
the awful loss.



Affectionately my dear

Miss P. Stevens

ack.

MSD

Sept. 16.

Dear Mrs. Spear; -

My thoughts have been  
with you almost continuously  
since reading yesterday morning's  
Times & I only wish I could  
be of some service to you. If at  
any point along the way I can  
be of help, I would consider

it a real privilege.

I know your all abiding  
faith will comfort you +  
give you the necessary  
strength to meet the events  
of today + the days to  
follow.

My love + deepest sympathy.

Mollie E. Sullivan

44 Morning Side Drive

Oct 1

Dear Mrs. Speer:

My Family, as  
the whole world  
has been appalled  
by the tragic death  
of my son Elliott.

I can not tell  
you in words the  
deep sorrow & pain I  
feel for & with  
Doctor Speer.

My daughter Hope  
joins me in tender  
thoughts - of you all -  
Believe me

Sincerely  
Ellen Hasden Vetterli

Sunday September 16 -

A brave spirit has  
gone from us at a  
time when our need  
seems greater than  
ever before -

I can well imagine  
the bond of love  
and hope between  
you and Doct<sup>r</sup> Speer  
and your beloved son.

His young wife  
and three dear children  
have all my sympathy.

Oct 21

DARIEN ROAD  
NEW CANAAN  
CONNECTICUT

My dear Mrs. Speer

When I heard  
of the unbelievable ~~close~~  
to the young and fine  
life of your son, I thought  
at once of the strength  
you have so often given  
to other people in times  
of sorrow — and knew  
that your source of strength



would be with you. —  
this time of deep  
loss and intense shock.

It is a tragic proof  
of the uncertainty of human  
life — and you may be  
proud of all that your son  
accomplished to keep younger  
people clear of eternal  
values.

Your friends are hold-  
ing you in their thoughts,

and we would be  
so glad if there were  
anything we could do to  
make these days easier  
for you.

Most sincerely

Katherine Scott

September 17<sup>th</sup>.

with wings 1

55

Dear Mrs. Speer: -  
In Britain <sup>we</sup> recently we noted about Dr. Elliott  
Our hearts were deeply saddened  
Great

when we read of your recent <sup>great</sup> sorrow. and  
this tiny note is just to say in a very  
brief way - (that knowing of you through  
the pages of the Womens Press - and of  
your husband through the eyes of Rev.  
John MacNeill of Toronto <sup>and</sup> Walmer Road  
Baptist Church -) you may be "guarded  
and garrisoned" by the One who has promised  
"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" -  
in the most tender regard and deep sympathy.

Yours in tender regard and deep sympathy  
(Miss) Filliam Smith  
#705 Gladstone Ave.,

(Miss) Fillian Smith - Gladstone Ave.,  
#705

ack 'upps.

R

Wm. & Mrs. E. J. Stackpole

Red Rose

57

THE HIGHLAND PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

LOUIS W. SHERWIN  
MINISTER

September 20, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
c/o Board of Foreign Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Dr. Speer:

May I take the liberty of sending  
you this brief line to assure you of your  
place in our hearts during these days and  
of our prayer that our heavenly Father  
will greatly strengthen and comfort and  
bless you all.

Ever faithfully yours,

Louis W. Sherwin.

ack,

DARIEN ROAD  
NEW CANAAN  
CONNECTICUT

My dear Mrs. Speer.

There is  
so little I can say. To  
make you feel how very  
deeply I sympathize  
with you in this terrible  
sorrow that has come to  
you. And, as however  
to express our ~~real~~ feelings



but I did want to send  
you just a word so that  
you know that we who  
have always appreciated  
your kind thoughtful re-  
marks thinking of you now—  
and wishing we could in  
any way - help —

Very sincerely yours

Sarah Hays Scott

September twentieth

As a neighbor let us act  
as a stranger in sympathy

Miss Edith Seoville

My heart aches for you all

ack.  
Oct 1/12

Faithfully yours

Edith Seoville

Southway Cottage  
Salisbury, Connecticut

September 1912

SUSAN DICKINSON STONE  
SIX LINTON STREET  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

031

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Spear,

So often our hearts and thoughts have been with you, during these past weeks.

Knowing that thousands of letters would reach you, we hesitated to tell of our deep feelings. But hearts are no less full, after weeks have passed.

Our memories go back to the six-year old Elliott when we first knew you at Camp Winwood.

Ever since, we have followed him with interest. I saw him twice in Chicago, as he was starting his Northfield work, and "his last picture" is reproduced

summer and another wee group  
picture where I think he stands  
or sits at the front of the fire.  
Perhaps you have these or you  
may not care for memories so  
far away. If you would  
value them, it would be a pleasure  
to send them.

I have often  
thought of a small boy, in a  
home where I was a guest, who  
was hindered from seeing a  
foot-ball game between his school  
and one from the next town.  
His father said, "Perhaps it was as  
well, for your team was defeated,  
for the first time." The boy's  
reply, I never forget. "That's just  
it, father. I would like to have seen

in our Cincinnati papers, tells of his strong, joyous personality.

I feel indebted to you both for the inspiration I have received all these years, for Dr. Spear always stirs and uplifts me, as no one else can, from the pulpit or through the pew. And Mrs. Spear's "Let Us Pray" is filled with thoughts we would make our own. We can say nothing new about a mystery like this but I did want to join those who tell you, we are thinking of you in all it must mean.

I have a snap shot of Elliott, sitting on the cabin steps (with our Elizabeth) that first

how they acted when they were  
beaten. The Christian world  
suffers with you and all know  
your strengthened faith and  
trust under such great sorrow.

With gratitude for every  
touch our lives have had with  
yours and deepest sympathy, in  
which my sister joins.

Susan Dickinson Stone

October 28, '34



ack.

Thursday.

My dear Mrs. Speer: -

I just want you to know that one more of your many friends is constantly sending to you thoughts of sympathy and hope.

Of course we all know that the one reassuring thing in this whole tragic sorrow is that you and Mr. Speer do have the knowledge and strength to meet it. Faithfully yours,  
Jane Merrill.

CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR47 14=ZG NEWYORK NY SEP 15 1032A

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

=M THERMON SCHOOL NORTHFIELD MASS=

:OUR DEEPEST AND MOST HEARTFELT SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO YOU  
AND ELIOTS LITTLE FAMILY=

.JAMES AND NELLIE SPEERS.

1140

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER



## CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
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## Received at

GR105 17 3 EXTRA= CHICAGO ILLS VIA MS NEWYORK NY SEPT 15

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

1934 1120AM=

CARE MRS ELLIOTT SPEER MT HERMON MASS=

WE ARE REMEMBERING YOU WE LOVED ELLIOTT SOMETIME WE  
WILL UNDERSTAND LEAN HEAVILY AFFECTION=

JOHN TIMOTHY STONE.

(147PM)

## CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
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J. C. WILLEVER  
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Received at

GR136 37 DL XC=OSSINING NY SEP 15 426P

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER, CARE MRS ELLIOTT SPEER:  
=M THERMON SCHOOL M THERMON MASS=

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER
-----------	------------

WE ARE ALL REMEMBERING YOU IN LOVING SYMPATHY AND IN PRAYER  
THAT YOU MAYBE GIVEN STRENGTH TO BEAR THIS AWFUL BLOW DO  
NOT HESITATE TO LET ME KNOW IF I CAN BE OF ANY SERVICE TO  
YOU=

WILLIAM P SCHELL.

. (506P

## CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Received at 19 Dean Street, Englewood, N. J.

NV62 19=ROCHESTER NY SEP 17 742A

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

: ENGLEWOOD NJ=

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER
-----------	------------

OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO YOU AND YOUR DEAR ONE IN THESE SAD  
DAYS PLEASE ACCEPT OUR LOVING SYMPATHY=

MR AND MRS ARTHUR E SUTHERLAND.

750A..

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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GR86 26 DL=NEWYORK NY SEP 15 1216P

DR ROBERT SPEER=

EASTNORTHFIELD MASS=

ONE OTHER HAND HELD OUT IN SYMPATHY FROM AMONG A HOST OF  
FRIENDS HARDLY KNOWN TO YOU MAY GOD GIVE YOU A PEACE THAT  
PASSES UNDERSTANDING=

PAUL SCHERER.

1245P



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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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**Received at**

CR45 18=PHILADELPHIA PENN SEP 15 1032A

DR ROBERT E SPEER:

=CARE NORTHFIELD SCHOOLS NORTHFIELD MASS;

=MRS SMITH JOINS IN EXTENDING HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO MRS  
SPEER AND YOURSELF IN THE TRAGIC DEATH OF ELLIOTT:

=J WILLISON SMITH.

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

## CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Received at

SYA102 20 NL=CLIFTONSPRINGS NY 16

ROBERT E SHEER=

156 FIFTH AVE NYK=

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

WE MOURN WITH YOU THE TRAGEDY IS UNBELIEVABLE MAY THE GOD OF

ALL GRACE COMFORT AND SUSTAIN YOU AND YOURS=

HUBERT SCHOONMAKER.

SEP 17 1934

## CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION (01).

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Received at

1D63 34 NL=KEENE 31 F 11=KEENEVALLEY NY 17

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

156 FIFTH AVE NEWYORK NY=

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

I WANT TO EXPRESS MY DEEP SYMPATHY FOR YOU AND MRS SPEER  
IN YOUR GREAT SORROW MAY GOD GIVE YOU THE FAITH AND COURAGE  
TO CARRY ON AND BRING PEACE TO YOUR STRICKEN HEARTS=

MRS WILTON MERLE SMITH.

SEP 18 1934



## CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Received at 19 Dean Street, Englewood, N. J.

NN24 9 NM=WILMINGTON NCAR SEP 17

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

ENGLEWOOD NJ=

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

WE ARE SENDING TO YOU OUR MOST HEARTFELT SYMPATHY=M

MR AND MRS WALTER P SPRUNT.

640A.

## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

## CABLEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNS

	Full-Rate Cablegram
LCO	Deferred Cablegram
NLT	Cable Letter
WLT	Week-End Letter

Received at

175 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

CDZ1 CABLE=NAPLES 7 19/1040A

LC SPEER (PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS)=  
 INCULCATE NEWYORK (156 FIFTH AVE)=

LOVING SYMPATHY=

SCOTT.

007

Albendale, N. J.

My dear Dr. & Mrs. Spear:

May I join the host  
of friends around the  
world who at this time  
are expressing to you  
the deep sympathy which  
we feel for you?

Loving thoughts and  
prayers have indeed  
encircled you since  
we knew of your  
great loss and

sorrow, and surely  
you must feel the  
computer man. How  
we would long to do  
something to help, if  
there were some service  
we could render!

Praying God's loving  
presence with you, I

am With sincerest sympathy

Isabel T. Schluter  
September Sixteenth -

CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STA

NBK57 29 1DL XC=GALLIPOLIS OHIO SEP 18 105P

DR ROBERT E SPEER=  
LAKEVILLE CONN=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

AWAY FROM HOME OUT OF REACH OF INTELLIGENCE TILL NOW FULL  
OF DEEPEST LOVE AND SYMPATHY FOR YOU AND YOURS DEAR  
ROBERT KNOW THAT GOD CAN AND WILL SUSTAIN=

JOHN H STRONG.

208P.

La 282  
TELEPHONE No. ....

TELEPHONED TO .....

DELIVER }  
.....

Miss Agnes Sailer

Englewood, New Jersey

about note

Yenching University  
Sept. 17.

Dear Robbie, -

Yesterday afternoon Marnie came over & asked to see Beth. A little later she came into the living-room where the rest of us were, & told us of the cable she had just received. It was a dreadful shock to us all & seemed simply unbelievable. Then the implications came crowding in on us, what this must mean to you & Emma, to Holly & the children, to the Villes family, other relatives & friends of the school. I thought of what Ned Bulkeley had been thru in losing his oldest son & of the rich & understanding sympathy he would have forth.

Marnie broke down in telling Beth, but was



wonderfully self-controlled with the rest of us. He came to the chapel service that evening where I had to speak. The community had been notified, & Dick Ritter had prepared a prayer expressing the common feeling. We expect that there will be details added to some of the Chinese papers, & are arranging to have them sent to us.

My mind goes back to the time when Elliott & Randolph lay together on the bed at Red Top Cottage each less than a year old. Then to their boyhood together in Englewood. Of late years we have seen Elliott only occasionally, but have heard quite a little of him from Red Bank. He seemed headed for a life of great usefulness.

Anything one can say at such a time as this seems so pitifully inadequate. I know that a great tide of feeling will flow to you from all over the country, all the appreciation for what you have been & done, & for what Elliott has been & done, will be inten-

sified by the very tragic circumstances of his death. In addition to all the comfort you have from above, you will have a unique wealth of human sympathy. These things are the real assets of life.

Beth will be writing later to Emma & Holly. We have already sent a cable from ourselves & Randolph's family. We shall await with keenest interest all further details of the past & the future, especially as to Holly & the children.

Our trip so far has been a very delightful one. We spent three weeks at Pictaiho with both families, & had a pleasant vacation. I had some good contacts with missionaries. We came down here a little over two weeks ago & are with Randolph on the Yenching campus in very congenial fellowship. I have had a lot of interviews here & in Paiching. A little later I hope to get down to Pekingfu & Tientsin, & to stop at Tsinan on our way south next month. I expect to be three weeks in Japan on the way back.

Minnie as Dean of Women & Randolph as Director of Studies are both in positions of administrative responsibility here & seem to be appreciated in the university council. I sat in on the pre-session conference. The session seems to be starting well.

Our heart goes out to you, Emma & Holly at this time, & the constant reminder of you all that we have in our prayers is very tender. I know you will find strength, as Ned Bullock did after the death of Harold.

Beth, Randolph & Louise join in deepest sympathy & love as expressed in our cable.

Most Affectionately

Thomas.

ack -

Chapin Hall, Evanston  
Sept. 17, 1934

Dear Mrs. Spear -

The Chicago paper carried the news of the tragic death of your son and I am sending you a note because I am thinking of you so often in these days of deep sorrow. It seems so terrible that such a thing

could happen, so entirely  
without reason. One can  
only assume a madman  
but even then it seems so  
dreadful that a person  
like that should not be  
under adequate restraint.

Outside the circle of very  
near and intimate friends,  
others cannot help much  
at such a time as this  
but I could not refrain  
from expressing to you my

Thought and sympathy.  
Even that seems almost  
an intrusion.

Sincerely,

Jane N. Heath

ack.  
1



461 Riverdale Avenue  
Yonkers New York  
Sunday the 16th.

Dear Mrs Speer,

May I tell you how  
deeply I am feeling for you in  
these days of sorrow, and that I  
am holding you high in my  
prayers and deep in my love.

I know that your gallant  
soul will come triumphantly  
thro the days, but I am also  
conscious of the bewildering  
shock that will threaten to  
shake you nervously and physically  
May Our Father make



you vividly conscious of His Presence  
through it all - and I know  
you must feel the sustaining  
love of your hosts & friends here.

I wish I might really  
help - all I can do is love you  
and I do that very sincerely.

Helen Schuyler

encl 1

65 PLYMOUTH STREET  
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

Dear Mess. Speer -

You know  
you have our love -  
Do draw on it - we  
have thought of you,  
and of Holly, all day -  
since we know of the  
tragedy -

Billy also wants

you and Mr. Speer to  
know how we are thinking  
and praying -

Always with very love -

Helen Speers -

at the Kay's house

Oakland, N.H.

Sunday evening -

How Quirk, Marion and Patty  
could be here just now - for you.

ack.

c/o Mrs J H Finley  
Tamworth  
WEST OSSIPPEE, N.H.  
New Hampshire

Dear Mr & Mrs Speer: -

Please  
accept my deepest sympathy  
in the tragedy that has  
entered into your happy  
family, I pray that God  
will give you strength  
to bear your cross.

I am,  
Sincerely Yours,,  
Nellie Smith.

Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> 1934

With deepest sympathy  
and love

Mrs. & Katherine Smyth  
Mrs. Nathan A. Smyth

etc.

Englewood

019



He Has  
Only Gone  
"Home"

To that far distant land  
He has taken his way,  
Past the shadows of night  
There has dawned  
a new day.  
And this be your comfort  
Through grief hard to bear  
That far country is "Home"  
And he waits for you there.

Nancy Sims



629

"With deepest sympathy"

Mrs. Robert J. Shearer

776 Westminster Row

Bugs my

(over)

The one son Mrs. Healy,  
Dear Minnie's sister, from  
old Huntingdon Pa.

## CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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**Received at**

GR28 23 NL=HARRISBURH PENN SEP 15

MRS ROBERT E SPEER:

=MOUNTHERMON SCHOOL NORTHFIELD MASS:

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

=ED AND I SEND OUR DEEP SYMPATHY AND LOVE TO YOU UNCLE ROB AND  
HOLLY WE ARE LONGING TO BE OF SOME HELP=

=FRANCES STACKPOLE.

ack.

ERGB.

Sept 15 -

801P

Alexandria, Egypt  
Sept. 25,

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

Arthur and I were  
shocked to hear of Elliot's  
death the other day. It  
seemed too sudden to be  
true. We are very, very  
sorry and extend to you  
our sympathies. I never  
knew Elliot except by  
reputation and I know  
the world has lost a  
real, Christian leader. I  
remember hearing him  
preach once in New York  
year ago and remember  
the fine figure he was in

the pulpit. I knew him, too,  
through Patty and Bill.  
They adore him. The place  
he left behind him must  
be very, very large.

Father arrives tonight  
from Europe. If he has  
heard, he has of course  
written you. But if he  
has not, I know he sends  
his deepest sympathies  
along with ours.

Sincerely,

Margaret T. Scott

act.  
SARA LOUISE SHAW  
19 GILMORE AVENUE  
MERCHANTVILLE, N. J.

Dear Mr. Speer:

For so many years you and Mr. Speer have seemed almost like personal friends because of what you have shared with Christian people - so when I read on Monday of your terrible bereavement I wanted to send a little word of sympathy.

You see I am not only one of your Y. W. C. C. family (general Secretary in Camden N. J.) but I am one of hundreds of others whom Mr. Speer inspired to give themselves to Christian service in college days and a summer at Northfield in 1903 I will never forget.

I can't realize that such a dreadful thing can ever happen -

to your son there.

Because my aunt was one of the friends of North field I have sometimes enjoyed some of those personal letters about the work that came to her and which mean so much to small contributors.

~~It~~ must have been the act of some terribly disordered mind. - My heart aches for you all.

May the only Comforter soothe the pain and help you to "carry on."

Sincerely.

Sara L. Shaw.

Sept. 19 - 1904.



ada

Phoenix Arizona - Sept. 15 - 1934

Dear friends - mind and heart are filled with sorrow over the terrible news - which I read over here tonight. And my mind and heart are filled with love for you and each of the family.

And I ask God for the meaning of man's madness - and I pray fervently for God's presence with you during all the hours with His understanding and peace.

I can not recall your Jamaica Park number - so I'll send this to 1826 -

you both are Western Christians - so you will find the Way - and we friends can only send love and prayers

Sincerely

Anne Seesholtz

Aspen, 105 East Twenty - second St -  
Council of Women for Home Mission

673  
Westminster Presbyterian church,  
New Orleans, La.  
Sept. 18, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Yesterday and today I have read with much pain and sorrow of the tragic death of your son Elliot. I want you and your wife and your son's family to know that Mrs. Sneed and I are deeply grieved because of this violence that has been done to a noble servant of the kingdom-your son.

We pray that the God of all grace whose son was crucified by wicked hands shall comfort you and sustain you in this great trial. We are sorry that one so noble and useful should have his earthly services so abruptly stopped. We shall be glad if the guilty party is found and punished but we hope that he who when he "was reviled, reviled not again" may rule in all your hearts and that his peace may abide with you forever.

Sincerely and Fraternally Yours,

Glenn C. Sneed.

ack.  
1934.  
Oct. 11

Trinity Chapel Clergy House  
20 WEST TWENTY-SIXTH STREET  
New York

Oct. 11. 1934 -

Dear Mrs. Speer:-

I trust it is not too late to tell you of my deep and heartfelt sympathy for you and all your family in your great sorrow. Miss Jennings may possibly have told you that I have been in Europe and this will explain why I have not written before. I should like just to say that you are in my thoughts and prayers, and that I am asking God to give each one of you the fulness of His Comfort and His peace.

On All Souls Day it is our custom at Trinity Chapel to remember before God those who during the preceding year have entered into the larger life, and if I may I shall include your son's name.

May God richly bless you all -

Faithfully yours,  
J. Wilson Sutton

Clifton Springs. N. Y.  
Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> 1934.

My dear Mr. Spear.

It is with very deep sorrow that we learned of the fatal accident which befell your son. We pray that the dear Father will comfort, strengthen and sustain you and your dear wife in this time of deep sorrow.

Our heavenly Father has promised never to forsake His own.

It is a comfort to know that He enters into our sorrows with a sympathetic heart.

Mrs. Sanders joins me in very deep sympathy.

Very tenderly.

J. A. Sanders. M.D.



51

PINE HILL FARM  
R. F. D. NO. 2  
OSSINING, N. Y.

Oct. 7th, 1934

Dear Dr. Spier:

Because of several extended trips and a mass of field engagements this is the first opportunity I have had to write to you. I have had to write to you. I have been thinking constantly of you and Mrs. Spier and of Helen and all the family and it has been impossible to get our minds off the tragedy that has fallen upon you all. We all wish it were possible for us to say or to do something to comfort you - but your comfort and strength are coming to you from within and through all your lives. I have seen the letters you wrote Dr. W. A. and I am not surprised to learn of the Christian faith and courage you are all showing. We are hoping and praying that your health will be maintained and that you may all be sustained by the sympathy and prayers of your friends. We in the Board are solicitous that you should not return to "56" until you feel well able to do so. In thinking of Elliot I think of the lines from Richard He Gallen's Ode to Robert Louis Stevenson to which Dr. Bowie refers in his Biography of Dr. Mcintosh the High School:

"Not while a boy still whistles on the earth,  
Not while a single human heart beats true  
Not while hope lasts, and honor, and the brave  
Has earth a grave  
O well beloved, for you."

Elliot always impressed me by the joyousness and outgiveness of his spiritual life. I had high hopes that upon your retirement from the staff of the Board he might be called to the staff but that is not to be. As for the tragedy itself, there is no explanation of it except as the act of a crazy person. We cannot explain it but hope the mystery will be cleared up. Please come back if I can do anything for you and meanwhile remember that we are praying for you all.

Sincerely, William F. Schell

011

ARTHUR J. SMITH

153 Onslow Place

Kew Gardens, L. I.

September 16 1934

Dear Robert:

Our hearts  
go out in sympathy  
to Mrs. Spurr and you  
in this hour of tragic  
sorrow.

May the Lord comfort  
your hearts that you  
may comfort others.

Be assured of our  
prayers.

Sincerely yours  
Arthur Smith  
and Mrs. Smith

611

JOSEPH H. SCRANTON  
MOUNTAIN LAKE  
BELVIDERE, NEW JERSEY

Sept. 16th 34

Dear Robert,

It was a great shock to all of us to read of your son's tragic taking off. I say all of us because I so often talk with my children of the old Audover days that they feel as if they knew you, also.

You may be sure you have our sincerest sympathy,

Joe



Ans'd  
Oct 1.

59 Pendleton Place  
September 18<sup>th</sup>

Dear Aunt Emma and Uncle Rob,

I want you to know how sorry I feel for you that this incomprehensible tragedy should have occurred. I did not know Elliott as I should like to have known him - we have been so tied down the last few years - but, through Peggy's great admiration, I have learned what a fine person he was. I shall always regret that I could not have seen him more often.

We are gradually getting settled but it has been very hard work. I don't know how we could have done it without having had that delightful rest in Lakeville. It was so good of you to have us.

With all my sympathy,

Sheafe

62

59 Pendleton Place  
New Brighton  
Staten Island, N.Y.  
Apr. 15, 1934

Dearest Aunt Fannie & Uncle RFB!

Shofo has just given me  
the dreadful news about Elliott,  
as it was in an edition of  
the paper. It seems as if  
everything were blotted out. How  
heart's' love goes out to you  
both and our unending sympathy.

It seems as if all we loved  
lost and the best is the  
world you take away.

Yours,

Peggy

JOHN TIMOTHY STONE  
826 BELDEN AVE.  
CHICAGO

September 26, 1934.

Personal

Dear Rob:-

How the time could have gone so swiftly since that great shock which came to us all in Elliot's disaster, I do not know. I received a lovely letter from you just that morning in reply to the little birthday note I sent you. It was a comfort to hear from you, but how our hearts have ached for you and Emma and Elliot's dear wife and family. It is one of those conditions in life we cannot understand, neither can we try to solve it by our own judgment or wisdom.

How I loved the dear boy and rejoiced in his success and splendid vitality of life and purpose.

Some crazed maniac must have committed the deed, but just why should such things ever happen! But after all, your life is hidden with Christ in God, and you are finding daily comfort there, which only He can give.

Our hearts are with you, and Marie joins in every word I write.

The Seminary has opened well and we have much to encourage us.

May the God of comfort be with you every day in these times of trouble and deep sorrow.

Ever your friend,

*Most affectionately,*  
*John Timothy Stone*

*Our hearts have  
verily ached for you  
all in this sorrow*

*and the children*

JOHN TIMOTHY STONE  
826 BELDEN AVE.  
CHICAGO

September 15, 1934.

Dear Rob:-

How our hearts are aching for you this morning and for Emma. It does not seem possible and all such a terrible mystery, but you who have sustained so many others will be sustained now. We all loved Elliot. I am going to write to his wife as well.

This is just a heart-beat through brotherliness and fellowship. God bless you my dear fellow and be with you all. I feel deeply for the other children also.

Affectionately,

*John*

Wm  
W5

Mrs. R. W. Speer

300 Humboldt Street

Denver, Colorado

Sept. 18" 1934  
Dear Leonard Rob:

The tragic passing  
of your dear son was a great  
shock to me, and my heart  
goes out to you in loving  
sympathy. The hour to feel  
lost ones is indeed heavy,  
but I rejoice in that they  
know so well how to leave  
heavily on the dear Father,  
who always comforts and  
sustains my mother how  
dark the hour. Love never

Faileth, - and I know the  
everlasting arms of love  
are around you constantly.

Love &c.

Yale H. Speer.



Ans.  
Ans.

Sep. 17, '34

TRANQUILLITY FARM  
ASHVILLE, MAINE

Our very dear Friends,  
Words fail, & we  
can only say we love  
you. It is a  
deep mystery.

Your splendid son,  
who is here all  
I am proud of  
Why? oh why?  
He knows that God is  
Love, & that He

had nothing to do with  
such a deed.

But he stands by and  
watches me realize what  
courage is, and  
grants support and  
peace and strength.

"I have set the  
Lord always before me,  
therefore I shall not be  
moved" were words that  
helped us when we,  
too, sounded the depths  
of suffering from the sud-  
den loss of a beloved  
child; & he could

say it — how much  
love you two, your  
precious Saints.

If the sym-  
pathy and love of  
the innumerable  
number of your  
friends can be of  
any help, you have  
that help in full  
measure.

Our hearts go out  
to her young wife  
& children — God  
be with you all.

His life and

Superb work will al-  
ways be Yours to  
treasure; And in  
God's love Nothing  
Separates - forever -  
It is hard to feel this  
now, but we all  
know it is true -

Your affectionate  
friends

M<sup>rs</sup> Jay Schieppin  
And W. Mike Schieppin

Ans  
as 6.

September 15, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer, -

I was stunned this morning when the terrible tragedy of your son's sudden going was told me. It is the darkest experience to come to one of God's chosen servants I have known of for many, many years. Our only son, our only child, was taken home now fourteen years ago, yet I feel today utterly incapable of entering into the depths of this suffering and sorrow of heart as I long to.

The love of thousands and thousands of fellow-believers whose lives you have so marvellously blessed for half a century flows to you today, my dear friend, a mighty stream of tenderest sympathy, accompanied by fervent supplication at the Father's throne of grace, that He may be wonderfully precious to both Mrs. Speer and yourself, this sad hour.

Always with deepest affection, I count it an honour to be,

Most truly your friend,  
Willbur M. Smith.



Ans  
etc

September 18, 1934

CALVARY RECTORY  
61 GRAMERCY PARK, NORTH

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

I have hesitated  
to write to you, knowing what  
numbers of messages you have  
received already; but when I  
left my card at 24, and  
found you were away, I felt I  
must tell you how all of us  
in this house have thought  
of you and prayed for you almost  
unceasingly since last Sunday.  
We have shared deeply with  
you in the shock and grief of

Then began a debt which I  
owe you, and shall always  
owe you, for the first faith I  
had in a truly living Christ.  
It was not till many years  
after that I began knowing  
that faith as an experience  
in my own life - but the  
vision of it began at Hartford.

I am praying that this loss  
will be another of God's sacro-  
ments to you, and that all who  
look to you for strength and  
faith may be lifted by your  
increased certainty of the all-  
sufficiency of our Lord.



Helen joins me in loving  
sympathy.

Faithfully yours,

S. M. Comaker

Elliot's going. And we have shared too, your faith that all is well with him.

I remember so well that somewhat difficult summer we spent together in the South of England, just after America had gone into the war. That experience brought us close together in a friendship which for me never dimmed, though I had seen little of him in recent years.

And long before that, I remember Dr. Spence speaking of him as a little boy, on the platform at Northfleet, and wondering if I should ever see and know him.

ack.

112 Mon Dela Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

Dear Mrs. Spurr:—

It is impossible for me to say what I am  
feeling for you — but perhaps that time we had together  
in Florence, with its tacit understanding and its sweet  
companionship, gives me the right to send you a note.

You have such resources within you that any words  
would be superfluous — yet I do want you to know  
that I am thinking of you, and longing to do some  
small thing that might lessen your suffering a little.

Please don't bother to acknowledge this — instead,  
take a great deal of love from me.

Dorothea C. Shipley —

September 18 —

613  
—  
EARL F. ZEIGLER, M.A., D.D.,  
Dean and Head of the Department  
of History and Philosophy

HAZEL E. FOSTER, B.D., Ph.D.,  
Administrative Dean and Head  
of the Department of Bible

WILLIAM F. WEIR, D.D., LL.D.,  
Head of the Department of  
Church Administration

MARY LEIGH PALMER, M.A.,  
Head of the Department of  
Religious Education

.....  
Head of the Department of  
Church Social Service and Missions

.....  
Head of the Department of  
Fine Arts and Recreation

# Presbyterian College of Christian Education

815 BELDEN AVENUE  
CHICAGO

Office Telephone—Lincoln 1482  
REV. ROBERT LEE SAWYIER, D.D.  
President

September 13, 1934.

## DIRECTORS

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DR. GEORGE L. ROBINSON  
DR. HAROLD MCAFEE ROBINSON  
JUDGE WALTER P. STEFFEN  
DR. A. C. ZENOS

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

The Chicago press carried this morning  
an announcement of the tragic death of your son, Dr.  
Elliott Speer. It seems incredible that such a thing  
could happen in such an environment and to such a man.  
I write this note to express personally and in behalf  
of your many friends at the Presbyterian College of  
Christian Education our sincere sympathy to you and  
your family in your bereavement. We commend you to  
God, the Great Comforter, to whom you have so often  
commended others as they have passed through afflic-  
tion and sorrow.

Earnestly yours,

*Robert Lee Sawyer*  
President

RLS:VS

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer,  
Board of Foreign Missions,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, New York.

514

ST. JOHN'S EVAN. LUTHERAN CHURCH

CIVIC CENTER

ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

W. C. SCHAEFFER, D. D., PASTOR.

September 21st, 1934.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Elliot Speer,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Speer,

All my life I have loved you; heard you whenever any occasion offered, and followed your writings with the utmost help to me. You have always been the source of inspiration to a higher and worthier Christian life to literally millions of people. This summer on my vacation we often spoke of the desire to hear you while you were in the south but it could not be arranged.

Now you and Mrs. Speer have sustained a great sorrow and I cannot refrain from telling you that you are in my thought and prayer. The Lehigh Valley is very beautiful in the fall and if you and Mrs. Speer could come to my little home over some weekend I would be so glad to have you rest a day with me. Moreover the foremost privilege I could ever covet for my congregation is that they might hear you sometime in a Gospel message. As one whose spiritual life has always been quickened by you and as one who holds you in utmost esteem and love I pray that Christ may fill your heart with peace.

Very gratefully and faithfully yours,

W. C. Schaeffer



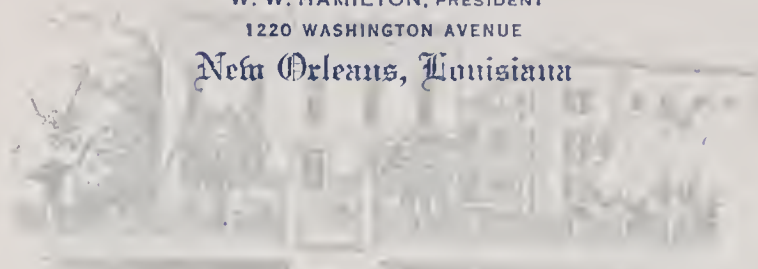
64

# The Baptist Bible Institute

W. W. HAMILTON, PRESIDENT

1220 WASHINGTON AVENUE

New Orleans, Louisiana



E. O. SELLERS

CORRESPONDENCE-EXTENSION

DEPARTMENT

Cuero, Texas

Sept 31. 1934

Mr Robert E. Speer, Secy.  
Presbyterian Board of Missions,  
New York

Dear Mr. Speer:

The newspaper accounts of the Northfield Tragedy have moved me deeply. Your friendship of the years and the fact that Elliott was in Mr. Eddy's party of 1916, when we went to the British army, makes it all seem very personal. I wish I had words that would truly express to you my sympathy. I assure you I am praying for you that you may have sustaining grace in this dark hour.

Trayodulley yours

E. E. Sellers

574

12111 Merdota Ave.,  
Detroit, Mich.,  
Sept. 19, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
N. Y. City,

Dear Dr. Speer:

In the local press I read yesterday of your son's tragic death. I wish to extend heart-felt sympathy and assurance of prayerful remembrance.

Recollection of former relations, tho' these were not intimate, have kept you & your service always in my thought & interest.

I feel sure that to yourself and others of the Family, this providence, tho' recognized as a permissive item in the



perfect program of our  
sovereign Lord, has brought  
distressing grief.

That you all will be up-  
held and comforted is certain.

This is the mission and  
commission of The Holy Spirit.

May the grace of God  
abound toward you!

Cordially,

Charles G. Sterling.

Please do not tax energy  
& time to reply.

S.

674

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church  
Washington, D. C.

JOSEPH R. SIZOO  
MINISTER

September 19, 1934.

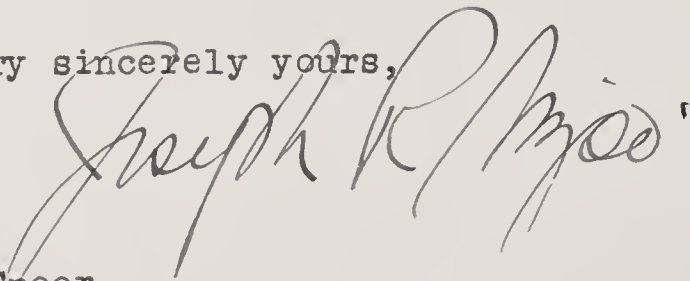
My dear Dr. Speer:

With your countless friends I kneel many times in prayer with my face toward your home that God may give you grace and keeping in these days of overwhelming sorrow that have come to you.

You may never know why it has come but you can be assured of God's sustaining grace and of the desire of your friends to share the burden with you.

May you find peace in an unfaltering faith in an unfailing God.

Very sincerely yours,



Dr. Robert E. Speer  
The Board of Foreign Missions of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York.

GT  
JOHN HINSDALE SCHEIDE  
TITUSVILLE, PA.

September 18, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

What shall I say and how shall I say  
it! Sadder news I have never heard. We are  
aghast that it should enter in to the heart  
of anyone to do so horrible a thing.

In the face of so great a tragedy  
words of sympathy are apt to sound hollow. We  
know something of the secret springs of com-  
fort and strength which we are sure are flowing  
so freely for you and your stricken family.  
May I, therefore, feel that our word of  
sympathy is not an intrusion on your grief?

Cordially yours,

John H. Scheide

574  
WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FORTY-SECOND AND PINE STREETS

PHILADELPHIA

ROBERT M. HEINE, Clerk of Session  
5906 Washington Avenue

JOHN F. SINCLAIR, M. D., Supt. of Bible School  
4103 Walnut Street

September 18,  
1934.

JAMES RAMSAY SWAIN, D. D., Pastor  
Manse, 428 South Forty- Fourth Street

Miss MARY BRAINERD SMITH, Secretary  
4415 Pine Street

Our very dear Speer:

I say "our" because you belong to us all, and particularly to some of us who have known you so long, and loved you so much. Mrs. Swain joins me in deepest sympathy for you and Mrs. Speer, and we want you to know how all Woodland joins with us in earnest prayer for the benediction of peace upon you in this tragic hour.

We were with you in spirit if not in person as you laid the precious dust in its grave at Englewood yesterday, and dared to pray for the Father's mercy upon him who did this terrible wrong.

Rejoicing with you in Him who alone brings life and immortality to light through His gospel, I remain

Affectionately yours,

*James Ramsay Swain.*

517

The Presbyterian Church  
Ridley Park, Penna.

Rev. Frederick Schweitzer  
Minister

September 18. 1934.

My dear Dr. Speer:

On every hand among our congregation last Sunday there were expressions of sorrow and sympathy for you and Mrs. Speer.

We prayed that the Master whom you had served with such fidelity and consecration all your life would not fail you in the hour of your grave need.

Those of us whose memories cheerish the inspiration of your faith and courage in the face of the momentous crises in our beloved church have every confidence that, with His help, you will bear your cross bravely.

Mrs. Schweitzer joins me in prayer and sympathy for you and Mrs. Speer.

Faithfully yours,

*Frederick Schweitzer*

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue.  
New York City.



68  
H. H. SERUNIAN, M. D.  
23 CHANDLER STREET  
WORCESTER, MASS.

Sept. 16, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Presb. Bd. of Foreign Missions  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

It was with deep sorrow that I learned that the victim of the brutal slaying at Northfield two days ago was your son. I am certain that my father, Rev. Hambartsem (D) Serunian of the Presbyterian Mission of Tabriz, Persia, <sup>and family,</sup> will join me in extending to you and Mrs. Speer our heartfelt sympathy in your tragic loss, and in praying that Our Father in Heaven may comfort you and be your support in these dark hours.

Sincerely yours  
Hoosie H. Serunian

68

143 BLEECKER STREET  
GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y.

Dear Bob:-

Words are inadequate  
to express our feelings over the tragedy  
that has come to your heart &  
home.

Such a useful & outstanding  
life to be cut off in such a  
manner is inexplicable.

Our deepest sympathy goes  
out to you & Mrs. Speed in  
your great sorrow.

Very sincerely,

Wm. A. Speed

Sept. 15, 1934.



818

# First Presbyterian Church

SECOND AVENUE AND CODY STREET

Hibbing, Minnesota

THOMAS W. SMITH, D. D., PASTOR  
MANSE 606 CODY STREET PHONE 1246  
STUDY IN CHURCH PHONE 1151-J

MR. T. S. SILLIMAN  
CLERK OF SESSION  
313 1-2 HOWARD STREET

MR. M. V. BORGESON  
TREASURER  
MERCHANTS & MINERS  
BANK

September 19<sup>th</sup> 1934.

My dear Robt. Speer:-

You and Elliott's dear mother have been in my thoughts ever since I read of the news of that mysterious crime at Mt. Hermon. Paul's word, "the mystery of iniquity" seems to haunt us the longer we live in this sinful world. Now I wish I could throw some light upon this tragedy! I never knew Elliott but had the highest estimate of his ability and consecration to Christ. He certainly must have made a wonderful record at the school in these few years. It must have been a joy to you to see him lead so many young men. You have, I am sure, precious memories to comfort you. But only intimate touch with our Risen Lord, can hold you & keep you in peace while the heavy cloud rests upon you & yours. Some day the light will break. Some day "your sorrow will be turned into joy."

Sincerely & prayerfully -

Thomas W. Smith.

010  
/

Hybridge  
Ontario Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 34

Dear Dr. Speer:-

May the God of peace, uphold  
you all, in these sad days -

Sincerely yours  
Margaret Stuart.

010

JAMES H. SNOWDEN  
921 MIAMI AVENUE, MT. LEBANON  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

Sept 16 1937.

My Dear Robert Speer:

I have been sad all day because of the tragic news in last evening's paper, I wish I could do something but I can only express my deep sympathy with you & your family in the great tragedy of sorrow that has fallen upon you. Your Lord is noble for worthy of his father & it is well with him. The whole world of Christian people is profoundly moved by this tragedy, May God sustain and comfort you yours fraternally  
James H. Snowden

210

2414 Parker St., Berkeley, Cal.,

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1934.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

Ever since the sad word came to me of your dear son's death my heart has gone out to you and to your daughter-in-law and grandchildren in very tender sympathy. So sudden, so unexpected was his going that the shock must have been very terrible. It is impossible to understand why God allowed such a thing to happen, but someday you will understand. Heaven is not very far away.

I know that throughout the length and breadth of

America and all around the  
World, people, who love you,  
are praying that you may  
all be given the strength  
and courage that you need  
and a deep and abiding faith  
that God's love is "round  
about you" and "underneath  
are the everlasting arms."

What a comfort it is that  
God knows and cares and  
suffers with us when we suffer?

With loving sympathy,

Jean T. Smith.  
(Mrs. R. C.)



010

Sept. 24 1934

## Kew Gardens Inn

UNDER  
KNOTT MANAGEMENT

KEW GARDENS, LONG ISLAND, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Spear:

Words Cannot Convey  
to You and Mrs Spear the full  
extent of my sorrow in your  
bereavement.

What Grief it would be to my  
Good Husband if he were here  
to know of this awful tragedy!  
He would be now - at your side  
with such words of Comfort  
as I am unable to write but  
which are deep in my heart.

I know You will be brave  
for the dear little ones who  
are left to replace in your life  
the splendid Son who has gone  
to his reward - You know  
he is happy - Now Awaiting

His loved ones,

In Memory of my husband  
and with my sincere friendship  
please accept for yourself  
and Mrs Spear my deepest  
sympathy.

Most Sincerely Yours,

Carolynne T. Swift.

After Oct 1<sup>st</sup>,

Murray Hill Hotel,

Park Ave. + 48<sup>th</sup> St.,

New York City.



610  
BROWN MEMORIAL CHURCH  
PRESBYTERIAN  
PARK AND LAFAYETTE AVENUES  
BALTIMORE

Sept. 18 - 34

Dear Mr. Speer:-

You don't need to be told how close I am to you and Mrs. Speer through all these days. All my heart is going out to you. And I am praying earnestly for you all. Please don't answer this note. It is simply trying to tell you what words can't say -

Yours affectionately  
Luthie Speers.

40

GILLETTE WOODS  
TRYON  
NORTH CAROLINA

Sept 20.

My dear Dr. Spur -

We have been deeply shocked and saddened by the news which the newspapers have brought to us - and though I have not seen Elliot for some years, I feel a sense of personal loss which is a tribute to his lovable character and ability. - Mrs Swall and I both send to you and yours a message of heartfelt sympathy.

Very sincerely yours

Charles G Swall

200  
David M. Skilling, D. D.  
226 SPENCER ROAD  
WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI

September 20, 1934.

Dear Doctor and Mrs. Speer:-

Mrs. Skilling and I want to tell you of our very tender sympathy for you and your dear family in the great sorrow through which you are passing. Our faithful prayer for you all is that God will give you His own blessed comfort and peace.

With loving regards in which Mrs. Skilling joins me I am  
Sincerely,  
David M. Skilling.

And

Dec 3,

MRS. A. SCHLERETH  
661 DAY AVE.  
RIDGEFIELD, N. J.

Sept. 24, 1934

Dear Mrs. Speere,

I can't tell you how sorry I am to hear about Eliot's sudden death. It seems almost unbelievable. I can remember him best as a boy when he used to come into the kitchen to make fudge. He was always so nice.

My husband has been sick for months. He was first treated for a cold but he soon became worse and was taken to the Englewood Hospital. He was operated on for an abscess

of the abdomen several weeks ago.  
They are still draining his side  
although he is feeling better. It  
will be a long time before he  
will be well again. It is very  
hard with my three girls going to  
school and my husband in the  
hospital with an expensive operation.  
Sometimes I feel so depressed.  
My load is so heavy that sometimes  
it is almost impossible for me  
to carry it. I hope you will  
forgive me for writing this way  
but sometimes you feel better if

MRS. A. SCHLERETH  
601 DAY AVE.  
RIDGEFIELD, N. J.

you can unburden yourself  
to someone. I hope your  
family and Eliot's family  
is feeling well.

yours truly,  
Beda E. Schlereth



618

2166 Pine Street,

San Diego, California,

September 29: '34

Dear Doctor Spear:

Dr McFee acquainted me about the dark sorrow that has  
 Come into your hearts and home. I have read of it also in the Presbyterian.  
 In an hour like that, as you know, — for I am still under the cloud, —  
 the only thing we can do is to get a little closer to Him "whom having seen we  
 love," and let Him soothe and calm and comfort; and wait till the "shadows  
 fly," and they will; and feel the pull on the heart, and the quicker, surer  
 step, and the happier spirit in following them till we too come where they are.  
 John Wesley was right: "Sudden death, sudden glory." And the same loving God  
 who lifted and crowned him will keep and comfort you all, I know.

Isaiah 41:10 Numbers 6:24-26.

Fraternally,

Rev A C V. Skinner

The dear, sweet business: Psalm 27:13.

ack' coss. Oct 18,

Peiping West  
Sept. 18-37

My very dear Emma:-

What a terrible blow has fallen upon you, and we, who are so far away, able to do nothing but carry you tenderly upon our hearts and in our prayers. I assure you there has scarcely been a moment since Marie told us the news on Sunday that we have not been with you. —

Billy's cable saying "Holy glorias," was just what we might have expected from her — always thinking of others instead of allowing her own grief to engulf her.

What a wonderful girl she is and  
what a comfort she must be to  
you all. I know that your ex-  
ample must be a great strength  
to her. Mamma is also bearing up  
marvelously attending to every  
duty faithfully and making it  
as easy as possible for those  
who long to show her sympathy.  
She shares with us every item  
that she receives. Henry's note  
from Shanghai yesterday reported  
the service was to be held in  
Englewood, and I cannot ex-  
press what a deep satisfaction  
this was to us — another anchor  
to your old home among so  
many friends who love you.

2 As I think back over the years  
we lived together there when our  
children were growing up, many  
little instances in Elliott's life  
come crowding in. Some of boyish  
pranks, but more especially those  
of kindly consideration for others.  
Two I remember particularly, as  
when Eleanor was a tiny baby  
and we had come to Englewood  
for the day. Elliott and Marnie  
were at the station to meet an aunt,  
and Elliott, who could not have  
been over five and a half, was  
claspng Marnie's hands in such  
a protecting way as they stood on  
the flat form under the watchful eyes



of the faithful old driver.

Then two years later when Billy was born, another picture comes to my mind of the care he took of ~~Elmer~~<sup>Constance</sup> one day as he brought her to our house, in her baby carriage, and on leaving, wrapped her up so carefully from the cold wind.

I gain in his early manhood. I think of his splendid, courageous work at the improvised hospital during the influenza epidemic.

He never thought of self - or of the danger he incurred, but always gave un sparingly of his splendid strength to every one about him.

The years have flown quickly since those days and the fire

3 record he has made throughout  
them with dear Holly at his side,  
will always remain his monument.  
Even tho' he has been cut down  
in the very flower of his manhood,  
that record can never die.

So, Emma dear, perhaps his work  
was finished, altho humanly speak-  
ing it does not seem so!

You must know how our love  
is reaching out & over across  
the great ocean, and how our  
hearts are longing to help you  
bear this heavy sorrow.

It seems so long until letters  
can come, but the days are  
passing and we shall hear  
details all in good time.

It has been in my mind to write  
you. I have now spent two nights  
with Anemie when we first  
arrived at Benching. She and  
Augusta were so hospitable  
and did everything for our  
comfort and pleasure. Anemie  
looks well, a little pale since  
she received Bob's cable, but she  
is coming thru it all just as  
you would wish.

With tenderest love from our  
united household, for I assure  
you Louise and Randolph's  
hearts are aching with care for you.  
I am always with  
Depest friendship and love  
Beth



Moderator  
REV. JAMES G. CARLILE, D. D.  
129 Ferry Street  
Troy, N. Y.

Stated Clerk  
REV. JAMES K. STEWART  
144 South Third Avenue  
Mechanicville, N. Y.

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REV. WILLIAM HAWTHORNE NATIONAL MISSIONS  
REV. HAROLD C. HARMON FOREIGN MISSIONS  
REV. J. SERVIS LARUE EDUCATION AND ADMISSIONS

# Presbytery of Troy

SYNOD OF NEW YORK

Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.



Chairmen Standing Committees  
ELDER LEROY W. CLARK PENSIONS AND RELIEF  
REV. ARTHUR JOHNSTON PASTORAL RELATIONS  
REV. LEWIS H. KNIGHT RECORDS AND POLITY  
REV. GEORGE H. FELTUS NECROLOGY AND HISTORICAL MEMORIALS

September 21, 1934.

Mr. Robert E. Spur,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

Dear Dr. Spur:

The members of Troy Presbytery at their stated meeting on Thursday directed me to convey to you and to Mrs. Spur their deep sympathy in the irreparable loss which you have suffered in the death of your son Elliott. Words are so inadequate at such a time. You have been such a tower of strength in our midst and for so many years that we long look of some real assistance to you in this hour of sorrow. We know, however, the measure of your faith and are well aware that the whom you have served so faithfully will sustain you to the utmost. Be assured of our prayers now and through all the days.

Truly sincerely

James K. Stewart

578

Bellefonte, Pa,  
September 26<sup>th</sup> 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York.

Dear Dr. Speer, - The Women's Missionary Society  
of the Bellefonte Presbyterian Church desire  
me to express to you its very sincere sympathy.

Many in our Bellefonte Church remember  
your ministry here during the summer of our  
Dr. Laurie's absence abroad and always have  
in you warm friendship and admiration.

Sincerely,

Kate Dunlop Sluiger,  
Secretary

W. R. HARSHAW, CHAIRMAN  
HUGH ARTHUR  
WILLIAM H. BODDY  
E. J. COUPER

GEORGE D. DAYTON, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
E. S. ELWELL  
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G. E. MURPHY  
RICHARD R. PRICE  
J. L. ROBINSON

HORACE M. HILL, TREASURER  
L. H. WILLIAMS  
PAUL S. WRIGHT

68

THE CHURCH EXTENSION BOARD  
OF  
THE PRESBYTERY OF MINNEAPOLIS

JAMES H. SPEER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1040 PLYMOUTH BUILDING  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Sept. 17, 1934

My Beloved Robert E., - I have no sustaining  
Word which you do not know, but I wanted  
you to see and know how often these days  
Mrs. Speer and I have been thinking of you  
and Mrs. Speer by way of Our Father's Throne.

- At the morning service at Westminster  
Church Dr. Boddy led the great congregation  
in prayer for you two, and I thought  
what a volume of prayer the world over  
will go out to Him for you

With appreciation, always, tender sympathy  
and affection, I am,

Yours sincerely  
James H.



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D. E. PARKER, SEC'Y.  
N. E. BLACK  
H. W. DAVIS  
GEO. B. PIPER  
J. R. ST. CLAIR, M. D.

578  
Alexandria  
Presbyterian Congregation  
Alexandria, Pennsylvania

REV. W. E. STEWART, MINISTER EMERITUS  
REV. H. T. SMITH, MINISTER

ELDERS  
FLOYD HARSHBARGER  
S. H. HATFIELD  
GEO. B. PIPER  
W. S. STRYKER  
HARRY A. TYSON  
G. M. WAKEFIELD

HELEN STEPHENS, FIN. SEC'Y  
C. W. DAVIS, TREASURER

OCT 16 1934

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

Huntingdon, Pa.  
1200 Moore St.  
Oct. 15th 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

Please pardon a late message of condolence on account of the sad death of your son Elliott. The sad news came as a shock to the people of Huntingdon, and to the church at large. Everybody hopes that the criminal may be hunted down and severely punished.

I know that mere words do not compensate much for the loss of a loved one, and yet they have some little effect when we know that others sympathize with us in our bereavement.

I called on Miss Clara McMurtry the next day after the dastardly deed, and the sad news was the subject of our conversation. The Presbytery of Huntingdon at a recent meeting in Osceola took action in expressing our sympathy, as you have doubtless been informed.

I am sure it is consoling to you to know that your son was one of God's noblemen, and that your loss is his gain. I am

Very sincerely yours

W E Stewart

P.S. Please pardon the use of the typewriter.

REV. H. M. SHUMAN  
PRESIDENT

REV. WILLIAM CHRISTIE  
VICE PRESIDENT  
TREASURER

REV. E. J. RICHARDS  
GENERAL SECRETARY

REV. G. VERNER BROWN  
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FOREIGN SECRETARY

# The Christian and Missionary Alliance



260 WEST 44TH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

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PERSIA  
JAPAN  
PHILIPPINE ISLANDS  
DUTCH EAST INDIES  
PUERTO RICO  
JAMAICA

Monday Morning  
9/17-34.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York.

Dear Dr. Speer:- The word of the tragic death of your son brought sorrow to Mrs. Snead and me, and we are praying that the sustaining grace of God shall truly uphold and comfort you all.

May the love of Christ be precious to the bereaved wife and daughters, and to you and Mrs. Speer; and may the Lord of the Harvest graciously prosper His work, as this sad event causes many of God's people to earnestly pray for the cause your son served so well.

In the fellowship of 2 Thess. 2:16, 17,

I am, With deep regard, Alfred C. Snead.

618  
**SENECA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

"NUMBER NINE"

DAVID S. SHELDON, PASTOR

STANLEY, N. Y.

September 20, 1934

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D.D.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I wish to send your family my deepest sympathy for the great grief that has just come to you.

Having known Elliott in Princeton I was greatly shocked at the tragic news so recently broadcast. I have been interested in the work he has been doing at Mount Hermon and Northfield and wished that I might have done more to contribute towards it.

May our Divine Master be with you now as never before and grant you the strength above human strength for these days.

Most sincerely yours,

*David S. Sheldon*



178

1659-5 St. Lake Ave.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Sept. 17, 1934.

Dr. Robt. C. Speer,  
156 Fifth Ave., New York,

Dear Brother Speer,

We were shocked and very much grieved to read in the daily paper of the death of your son Elliot.

When our own son was accidentally killed only a few days after our return from one of our furloughs, it was a great comfort to us to think of his death as a promotion to a higher and better sphere of service, and altho the loss of him for a time was a great sorrow, we were given a new interest in Heaven.

I think our son was born about the same time as your son, and I like to think of him as welcoming your son upon his arrival in the blessed home where we too shall meet them before many years have passed.

My wife joins in sending love to you and your wife, and we pray that our Heavenly Father may comfort you and bless you and that the good work that your son was ~~of~~ doing may continue to be carried on in a way that will prove that he has been a faithful guardian of an enterprise that has been a blessing to the young people who had the privilege of being educated for Christian service at Mt. Herman.

Sincerely,  
John A. Silsby.



518

# DETROIT YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

## CHARACTER BUILDERS

GENERAL OFFICES  
200 ASSOCIATION BUILDING

9-21-34

C. B. VAN DUSEN, PRESIDENT, SEP 24 1934  
FRED P. TODD, TREASURER  
A. G. STUDER, M. D., GENERAL SECRETARY  
WELLINGTON M. LOGAN, ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY  
R. L. FLYNN, ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY  
PERCIVAL J. LEE, ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY

Dr Robt E Speer  
156 Fifth Ave  
New York City

Dear Dr Speer:-

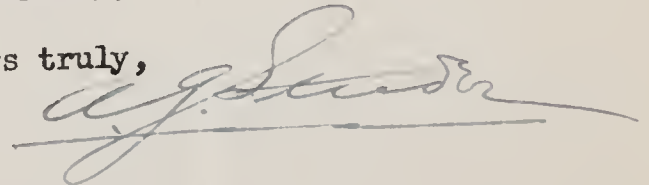
I cannot tell you how terribly shocked I was when I read in the paper of the tragic death of your son Elliott. Nothing has happened in a long while that has shadowed my life as much as this tragedy which has come into your family.

I do not find words to express to you my sympathy and know that no expressions of mine can ease the pain that must fill the heart of Mrs Speer and yourself in the loss of so brilliant and promising a son. The hearts of your friends across the world go out to you and you are borne up in our prayers that the needed strength will be yours as you are burdened in this great sacred sorrow.

I am confident that the God whom you have served so faithfully throughout the years of your life will be with you and yours as you walk through the shadows. May God's richest grace abound in your heart these days.

With sincere affection and sympathy,

Yours truly,



RECEIVED AT

303 FOURTH AVE.  
GRAMERCY PARK N.Y.

STANDARD TIME  
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

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NM	NIGHT MESSAGE
LCO	DEFERRED CABLE
NLT	NIGHT CABLE LETTER
WLT	WEEK END CABLE LETTER
	RADIOGRAM

Form  
16

K 14 17 CABLE=SANTI AGOCH 1054A OCT 17 1934

LC SPEER=

24 GRAMERCY PARK NEWYORK=

JUST HEARD HORRIBLE NEWS HEART ACHES FOR YOU AND HOLLY=  
FLORENCE.

1022A

*acknowled.  
APR  
Oct. 17.*



Telephone Your Telegrams to **Postal Telegraph**

18 September 1934

Dear Doctor Speer:

I was shocked to read of  
your son's death in yesterday's  
paper.

I hope you will accept  
this weak expression of sym-  
pathy from one to whom you  
have been unfailingly kind.

I am yours very sincerely,

Thomas W. H. Simpson



CABLE "LIBERATE"

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — OF — FOREIGN MISSIONS

POST OFFICE BOX 330  
NASHVILLE, TENN.

September 18, 1934



113 SIXTEENTH AVE S

EGBERT W. SMITH

FIELD SECRETARY

DEFINITE OBJECTS DEPARTMENT

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Presbyterian Foreign Mission Board,  
150 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Returning to the city after an absence of six weeks, I was horrified yesterday evening to see in the daily paper a notice of the murder of your noble son, Elliot. I write at once to express to you and Mrs. Speer my profound and heartfelt sympathy with you in this overwhelming bereavement.

I have long since ceased endeavoring to explain the ways of providence. We are not expected to understand them here. We are to walk by faith and not by sight. But I like to recall our Saviour's assurance, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."

With love and tender sympathy, I am

Sincerely your friend,

EMS/b



012

THE HOME CAMP  
FIRST CONNECTICUT LAKE  
PITTSBURG, NEW HAMPSHIRE

September 24, 1934

Dear Rob,

My thoughts have been constantly of you and the last three recent days but I am wholly unable to put my feelings into words. They are too deep for that. But I rejoice in the assurance that you have the bed rock of Christian faith to rest upon.

Of course I can think of Eliot only as continuing in larger and happier fields, somewhere in God's boundless universe and in accordance with his Father's will, whatever work his special talents best fit him to achieve in the furtherance of his Creator's plan.

God bless you both and sustain you in these hard days.

Affectionately

Cyril E. Thomas

014

The Second Presbyterian Church  
Danville, Kentucky  
Sunday, September 16

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

A large number of the members of the Second Presbyterian Church have asked me to write to tell you of our sympathy in your recent bereavement. The study which the ladies of our church have recently been making of Mrs. Speer's book on Prayer have made them feel especially close to you and therefore especially touched by your sorrow.

May our other common bond, our faith in God with the peace surpassing all that we could expect which it brings, sustain you in this time of need.

With our deepest sympathy,

George E. Swezey  
Minister -

(H2)  
GULL ROCKS  
MADISON, CONN.

September 16, 1934.

My Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

I just heard of the most tragic death  
of your son Elliot. [I last saw him  
at Hotchkiss, where he talked in a meeting  
of the St. Luke's Society. I have always  
admired him greatly] and I offer you my  
sincere condolence.

Very Cordially Yours,

Peter Scott.



R. E. Speer 613

HENRY H. SWEETS  
410 URBAN BUILDING  
LOUISVILLE, KY.

October 11, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:

You have been in my thought constantly during these days. I have not ceased to remember you and Mrs. Speer at the Throne of Grace. I know something of the deep sorrow that has come to your hearts.

It is impossible for us to understand many of the things that come to us in life. When I was a college boy I worked for several summers and for one whole year for Dr. Thos. E. Converse who for many years was Editor of the Christian Observer. I think he was one of the most practical students of the Bible I have ever known. So often while in the midst of great sorrows and deep disappointments he said: "Henry, I am always glad to find something about God ~~and~~ His works that I cannot understand. It gives me more humility of mind and more reverence in my spirit."

For several years I was called upon to render service at homes where little babies had died. I thought I understood the sorrow and sympathized with the mother and father. Not until our own first born was taken did I realize that this was wholly impossible and that I had scarcely entered at all into the sorrow of those homes. This has made those words of Paul mean so much to me: "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

I do not know of any man in the world who has brought more comfort and hope to human hearts than you. I am sure these blessings which you have brought to so many other hearts are now being multiplied in your own experience.

Your sincere friend,

*Henry H. Sweets*

ADIEU AND AU REVOIR

As you love me, let there be  
No mourning when I go -  
No tearful eyes,  
No hopeless sighs,  
No woe - nor even sadness!  
Indeed, I would not have you sad,  
For I myself shall be full glad  
With the high triumphant gladness  
Of a soul made free  
Of God's sweet liberty.  
- No windows darkened,  
For my own  
Will be flung wide, as ne'er before,  
To catch the radiant impour  
Of Love that shall in full atone  
For all the ills that I have done;  
And the good things left undone;  
- No voices hushed;  
My own, full-flushed  
With an immortal hope, will rise  
In ecstasies of new-born bliss  
And joyful melodies.

Rather, of your sweet courtesy,  
Rejoice with me  
At my soul's loosening from captivity.  
Wish me "Bon voyage!"  
As you do a friend  
Whose joyous visit finds its happy end,  
And bid me both "a Dieu!"  
And "Au revoir!"  
Since, though I come no more,  
I shall be waiting there to greet you  
At His door.

And as the feet of The Bearers tread  
The ways I trod,  
Think not of me as dead,  
But, rather,  
"Happy, thrice happy, she whose course is sped!  
She has gone home - to God,  
Her Father!"

- John Oxenham

## IMMORTALITY

"There is no death! The stars go down  
To rise upon some other shore,  
And bright in heaven's jeweled crown  
They shine forevermore.

There is no death! The dust we tread  
Shall change beneath the summer flower  
To golden grain or mellow fruit  
Or rainbow tinted flower.

The granite rocks disorganize  
To feed the hungry moss they bear  
The forest leaves drink daily life  
From out the viewless air.

There is no death! The leaves may fall,  
The flowers may fade and pass away -  
They only wait, through wintry hours,  
The coming of May.

There is no death! An angel form  
Walks o'er the earth with silent tread;  
He bears best loved things away.  
And then we call them 'dead.'

He leaves our hearts all desolate -  
He plucks our fairest, sweetest flowers;  
Transplanted into bliss, they now  
Adorn immortal bowers.

The bird-like voice, whose joyous tones,  
Made glad this scene of sin and strife,  
Sings now an everlasting song,  
Amid the trees of life.

Where'er He sees a smile too bright,  
Or soul too pure for taint or vice,  
He bears it to that world of Light,  
To dwell in Paradise.

Born into that undying life,  
They leave us but to come again;  
With joy we welcome them the same  
Except in sin and pain.

And ever near us, the unseen,  
The dear immortal spirits tread;  
For all the boundless universe  
Is life - there are no dead!"

There is no death -  
They only truly live  
Who pass into the life beyond, and see  
This earth is but a school preparative  
For larger ministry.

We call them 'dead' -  
But they look back and smile  
At our dead living in the bonds of flesh,  
And do rejoice that, in so short a while,  
Our souls will slip the leash.

There is no death  
To those whose hearts are set  
On higher things than this life doth afford;  
How shall their passing leave one least regret,  
Who go to join their Lord?"

- John Luckey McCreary.



Remember thy servant, O Lord, according to the favour which thou bearest unto thy people, and grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, he may go from strength to strength, in the life of perfect service, in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

ack 1

Trinity Chapel Clergy House  
20 WEST TWENTY-SIXTH STREET  
New York

Nov. 5. 1934.

Dear Mrs. Speer:

I thank you very much for your kind letter. I am so glad you could be at the service on All Souls' Day and join with us in our prayers for your son. This great day means more and more to me as the years go by and as the number of my loved ones who have passed into the fuller life increases. I do not quite see how I could get on without it, at least without the truth for which it stands. Prayer for the departed seems to me such a natural, indeed such an inevitable thing. The prayer I used at the service comes from the New Prayer Book and I am enclosing a copy. I have only notes of the service. If I can find time to put them into understandable form I shall be delighted that you have them.

By all means bring your grandchild to see the paintings. Today is not a very good time nor is Sunday morning but at other times the Chapel is free.



Trinity Chapel Clergy House  
20 WEST TWENTY-SIXTH STREET  
New York

I am very sorry your daughter-in-law is so worn out. I shall have her in my prayers, and some day I trust I shall have the pleasure of meeting her.

Thanking you again for your letter and with kindest regards,

I am faithfully yours -  
J. Walter Lutton

11/5/34

Trumbull, Rays elder son, who is connected with a Sanitary Engineering Company is in the state for a few days and spent Sabbath (Nov. 4) with us.

My daughter's only son is a Junior in the Western Theo. Seminary. Trumbull was pleased from reading your congratulations & good wishes. He is succeeding very well in his work.

LRS

74  
Delaware, Ohio,

R. D. #4,

November 5, 1934.

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,

156 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.

My Dear Dr. Speer:- I gratefully acknowledge the receipt of your advanced congratulations in view of my approaching the ninety-third milestone. I have been wonderfully spared and kept free of serious bodily ills all these years. I continued ministerial work until I was eighty-eight, and have preached since, and as late as October 7th - I teach a Bible class in our church - Liberty, Marion Presbytery.

We have tenderly thought of you and your family in your recent sorrow, assured that you were the recipient of God's comforting grace.

Very sincerely yours

Geo. B. Smith

R. E. S.

John H. Strong

7/20

NOV 20 1934

Hornell, N. Y.  
Sunday, Nov. 18, 1934.

Dear Robert!

I am thinking much of you and yours  
these days.

Last Sunday I should have been with  
you in Northfield, if I had not by long  
appointment begun on that day a course of  
teaching here.

The pastor is one of my Baltimore  
boys. He got Seminary training, married, and  
is located here; and every now and then I  
come and give his people a course.

Today I close — this evening —  
in a union service. It has been an unusual  
experience, in its freedom, realization of  
divine assistance, and joy.

God strengthen and keep you. You are  
much needed by many — by us all.

Most affectionately,

John H. Strong

Wm M. Strong  
THREE-EIGHTY-THREE MADISON AVENUE

Oct 25

October 22, 1934

Dear Dr. Speer:

I am indebted to my father for an opportunity to write you about Elliott.

When I was in Andover, my parents were in Europe, and I was alone in a new world. Elliott was extremely thoughtful and friendly, bringing me more than once to your home in Englewood when I had nowhere in particular to go. I saw much of him in Princeton, but among my recollections of him, I think I appreciate most of all his friendliness at Andover, when I needed it most.

This may perhaps seem a trivial thing to single out, but I thought it might interest you. I send my best sympathy to your whole family.

Very sincerely,

*William M. Strong*  
William M. Strong

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
Englewood  
New Jersey





W. J. Smith  
W. J. SMITH

REALTOR

Real Estate Exchange Building

LAKE WALES, FLORIDA

October 25, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 5th Avenue,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Speer:

We have heard with much sorrow of the recent tragic death of your son, Rev. Elliott Speer.

I remember with appreciation your kind words of comfort in the death of my brother Rev. Ray C. Smith of India, twelve years ago, and your commendation of his work and life. Much the same could be said of your son in that he was cut off just at the time when it seemed that he had come into his period of greatest usefulness. To our finite minds there is no explanation of such visitations of Providence. We must look to a greater power who does all things well and who in His own good time will reveal to us the causes of things we cannot now understand.

You will be interested in knowing that my father, Rev. Geo. B. Smith, continues in good health. He will be 93 years old the 28th of this coming December. At present he is with my sister and her husband, W. M. Kilpatrick, Route #3, Delaware, Ohio.

I wish to assure you and yours of my sympathy in your great sorrow.

Yours truly,

  
W. J. Smith



Abraham O Samuel

3333 Steiner Street  
San Francisco, Calif  
October 30, 1934

Dr & Mrs. Robert - C. Speer  
156 - Fifth Avenue  
New York City, N.Y.

My dear Friends,

The death of your son in his early manhood, was a great blow and tragedy to us. It is difficult in a time like this to say just how grieved we are, but we know how sorrowful it is to lose one who is so precious and fine as your son because we too have lost a son - thirty-five years old - this year.

May God heal your hearts - for we who trust Jesus Christ - "sorrow not as those who have no hope." With our deepest sympathy for you & Mrs. Speer.  
I am your brother in Christ,  
Abraham O. Samuel  
of Peruvia,

Mrs. Robert E. Speer.

a. m.

35 Chestnut St. Clinton, N.Y.  
Oct 28, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Speer,

The "second touch" which the Memorial to your son, with its few words in your own hand, gave to the deep impressions already made by "Lord, Teach Me to Pray", made me think of the lines which are enclosed. You doubtless already know them, but even well known poems, may gain a little extra radiance by the polishing of wider reading. I had not known any of Howard Arnold Walters' writing but "I Would Be True", and these words came to my attention the second time, when the World Day of Prayer, last Spring focussed my thoughts on them. It was held in the Episcopal Church, and one of the members of that Church read the enclosed poem of John Oxenham's,

In a small town, there is not wide choice among those who attend such a service, to select those who can or will take part, so it became my privilege to have a share in that world wide service - its influence being therefore the deeper on my own mind, and these lines being so woven into its memories, that they are carried on in my own words, for my own private use. But to show how the things we read and hear are woven into our thoughts, even as you took down, I'll write them out for you, not for their own value, but in appreciation of your own words and those of others. Do not trouble to acknowledge this except by sending, if you will be so kind ten of the books "Lord, Teach Me to Pray" in which my order is enclosed.

Sincerely Mary B. Swanton  
Mrs. A. W. Swanton



Lord God, to Thee I humbly pray  
That Thou wilt touch my eyes this day  
That as I closer draw to men  
I may see my neighbor then  
No longer as an earth-bound ~~through~~ "greening tree" <sup>(1)</sup>  
But as God inspired soul to be.

And as we come to Easter Day  
Yet more humbly do I pray  
Thy gracious second touch on me bestow <sup>(2)</sup>  
That I with him may upward grow  
③ "Toward" these fields of light above  
To which He draws us by His love.

However small we are as seeds  
It may be that our growth He needs  
Some neglected spot to fill  
On lonely vale or barren hill.  
To Him who is the Source of Light  
No seed's too small in His keen sight  
For Him to help to come to flower  
Drawn by His love <sup>(4)</sup> still radiant power.

④ As in knowledge, day by day, we grow  
Though through its increase poorer we may know  
That we shrink not from our duty  
But in each task see new beauty  
⑤ And more kindly grow each day  
⑥ "Give us a larger love, we pray".

Mary B. Serantov -

① from "Increasing Christhood" by Robert Norwood Page 324.

② "The Second Touch" Howard Arnold Miller

③ "Toward Fields of Light" Editor Hatch in Modern Religious

④ Miss Tadei (of Japan) talk on stillness at Peace and Verse, Merifield

⑤ Devotional Service, by J. Harold Thompson Alice Rushford, Spring 1934.  
"Day, Oct 1933."

"Lord, Touch My Eyes" by Emma Bailey Spar  
"From Prayer" by Mrs. Gertrude Van Dyke, in Service at Hamilton College Chapel, 1934.

## The Second Touch

Mark 8-25 (To Frank Buchanan)

"The blind man, sunk in pordid helplessness,  
a sound of footsteps caught.  
"The Healer comes!" they cried, and there 'the press  
The hapless wretch they brought:  
With wild hope, born of uttermost distress,  
The healing Touch he sought.  
A hand reached out in potent tenderness,--  
The miracle was wrought.

Strangely he stares. "What dost thou see?" they cry.  
"I see men walk as trees."  
Again the cool hand strokes each aching eye--  
The last dim shadow flees.  
Not ~~moving~~ shapes but live men, drawing nigh,  
With glad, clear eyes he sees,  
And tells to each how God's power came by  
And healed his dire disease.

Dungeons by self, we too brought His hand  
Our shuttered eyes to free.  
His touch restored, vast stricken crowds appeared  
And guessed their misery.  
Lord Christ, Thy second touch our hearts demand,  
Each separate soul to see,--  
His wounds to pale, his wants to understand,  
And lead him home to thee.

(Signed) Howard Arnold Walter

S.S. "Venezuela"

Off Manila, P.I.

Oct 24, 1917.

Poem read by Dr. Philip S. Reid during his sermon on Jan, 23, 1925, at  
First Church Utica, N.Y.

57



THE WELLINGTON  
PHILADELPHIA

Dear Dr. Speer:

We are of the legion of your friends whose hearts are saddened by the terrible Mount Ararat tragedy, now so inexplicable. We can only try to comprehend what it means to you and to Mrs. Speer, and join our prayers to yours that you may have strength to surmount Mrs. Williamson is still in Barcelona, and I am sending such details as I have - no doubt Mrs. Speer will hear from her.

Please do not think it necessary to send an acknowledgment of this; it is easy to imagine the vast number of such letters that you will receive. Sincerely

Sept. 16/34.

Oliver R. Archambault

# Peace

PEACE in our time, O Lord,  
To all the peoples—Peace !  
Peace surely based upon Thy Will  
And built in righteousness.

Thy power alone can break  
The fetters that enchain  
The sorely-stricken soul of life,  
And make it live again.

- 2 Too long mistrust and fear  
Have held our souls in thrall ;  
Sweep through the earth, keen breath of heaven,  
And sound a nobler call !

Come, as Thou didst of old,  
In love so great that men  
Shall cast aside all other gods  
And turn to Thee again !

- 3 O, shall we never learn  
The truth all time has taught,—  
That without God as architect  
Our building comes to naught ?  
Lord, help us, and inspire  
Our hearts and lives, that we  
May build, with all Thy wondrous gifts,  
A Kingdom meet for Thee !

- 4 Peace in our time, O Lord,  
To all the peoples—Peace !  
Peace that shall build a glad new world,  
And make for life's increase.  
O Living Christ, who still  
Dost all our burdens share,  
Come now and dwell within the hearts  
Of all men everywhere !

*John Oxenham.*

*To the tune 'Diademata',*

*("Crown Him with many crowns")*

1000 Copies, 5/6 ; 500, 3/6 ; 250, 2/6, post free.  
From A. Weekes & Co. Ltd., 13 & 14, Hanover St., London, W. 1.



ack.

My dear Mrs. Spear

Please, please accept  
my profoundest sympathy in  
the tremendous cruelty of your  
sorrow — I could hardly  
believe the printed page.

If any two persons  
in the world, would know  
how to meet this tragedy,  
surely it would be you and  
Mr. Spear — but I cannot  
bear to think of the heart in

your hearts these days - I can  
only say over and over again -  
have very peace, I just wish  
you - and I pray it may suffice.

Dorothy Carter.

Vancouver

612.

C. V. MESEROLE  
95 MAIDEN LANE  
NEW YORK CITY

Monday  
Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>

Dear Bob.

[How well I remember the Sunday  
last year when I heard your boy Elliot talk  
to the boys of Hitchcock School and how  
glad I was to have my boy there to hear  
him. I realize full well the loss which  
the young generation of today have suffered  
through the removal of such a fine  
character from their midst.]

Please accept from Mrs Meserole  
and me our profound sympathy and  
[let us share in a small way the  
memory of the splendid Christian Character  
and teaching of your son.]  
Most sincerely  
William V. Meserole

Vancouver, B. C.

6-157

September 17,  
1934.

Dear Friends:

This morning when I read the local Paper I was greatly surprised and distressed to find the account of your son's terrible slaying. One simply can find no words to express one's feelings. Please believe I am

thinking often of you  
in sympathy and  
love fully knowing that  
heavenly Father will  
give you of His Comfort  
and Peace.

Most sincerely and Sympathetically  
Yours,  
Anna H. Williamson

Mrs. Oliver R.

R. 1410

The Wellington

Place

011  
Egypt - 1854

India - 1855

The Sudan - 1900

Ethiopia - 1920

The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
United Presbyterian Church of North America

Schaff Building, 1505 Race Street

Philadelphia, Pa.

OFFICE OF  
ASSOCIATE SECRETARY

Cable Address - Evangelism, Philadelphia

Prince George Hotel  
9/19/34

Dear Dr. Stear -

I have read in the daily press the report of your son's tragic death. May the God of all Comfort comfort and sustain you and your wife and all the dear loved ones in this trying hour. We will be remembering you and yours in prayer.

Sincerely  
Wm. L. Taylor



OH  
DAVID W<sup>A</sup> TEACHOUT  
KINSMAN AT EAST 90<sup>TH</sup>  
CLEVELAND  
September 17, 1934.

My dear Mr. Speer:

Your many friends here in Cleveland desire to express deep sympathy to you in the loss of your son Elliott, Head of the Mount Hermon Preparatory School.

This recent news in the papers was a shock to us all.

Words at such a time are certainly inadequate to express that which our hearts would prompt us to convey, but I do wish you to know that we are thinking of you in this sorrow.

Believe me as one of your close friends at this trying time.

Most sincerely

D. W. Teachout

Br. Robert E. Speer, President  
Federal Council of Churches  
105 East 22nd Street  
New York, N. Y.

018

REV. JOHN A. TERHUNE  
315 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE  
RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Sept. 15/34

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 Fifth Ave. N. Y.

Dear Bobby;

The shocking news of  
your son. Elliott's, death came to me  
this evening in the N. Y. paper.

It is beyond all human explana-  
tion or understanding why a man  
so capable and so much needed  
in the world should be so  
inhumanly<sup>2</sup> and so early in life  
taken away from his opportu-  
nities for service.

We cannot understand but God  
still rules and reigns and we  
have the promise Rom. 8:28 ("all  
things"). You and your dear ones  
have the "joy of memory and the  
joy of anticipation".  
The greatest life this world

has ever known was but 33.  
when He went home.

May the dear Lord wonderfully  
sustain you during these testing  
times. He has promised grace  
sufficient 2 Cor. 12:9.

Just rest in the Lord and  
trust where you cannot under-  
stand.

Yours in deep sympathy  
John A. Terhune

# A LITTLE GRAVE.

by R.R.Thompson

I visit it through rain or snow,  
She loved me and I loved her so;  
    My little girl !  
And standing by that little grave,  
God gives me strength and makes me brave  
    To face the world.  
There <sup>is</sup> that mouldering dust,  
In my Father's love I trust -  
    In Him alone.  
The parting here was full of pain  
But we shall never part again  
    When I go home;  
And life is like a sunless day,  
For she has gone so far away.  
    My little one !  
Although it was so hard to part,  
Help me to say with all my heart,  
    "Thy will be done."

Those hands that I have fondly pressed  
That golden hair so oft car~~l~~essed,  
    Lie neath the sod.  
That little soul now gone away,  
And made with us so brief a stay  
    Belonged to God.  
He gave her for a few short years,  
And then she left us all in tears -  
    God make me strong !  
Without that little hand in mine  
I need Thy presence all the time,  
    But not for long;  
The years are gliding very fast,  
Life's little day will soon be past;  
    Life's storms be o'er,  
Then - God grant that I may see,  
One who was all the world to me,  
    On yonder shore.

614

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R. P. CHURCH

MONTREAT, N. C. Sept. 22nd., 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Speer:-

Our hearts are bleeding for you and Mrs.

Speer in the great trial, the loss of your son whose  
career we have watched from year to year. "He knows it  
all". "It became the Captain of our salvation to be  
made perfect through suffering".

Be pleased to convey our sympathy to your  
son's family whom we know not yet we love for His sake.

Very sincerely yours,

*S. M. Tenney*  
S.M.T.



G13

11 East 87<sup>th</sup>  
Sept. 17.<sup>th</sup> 1934

Dear Dr & Mrs Spear -

Just a word of  
deep unutterable love.

Louis L. Thresher.

u



1238 Waverly Place, Elizabeth N.J.

September 16, 1934.

My dear Dr and Mrs Speer,

Mrs Trull and I want to say how our hearts go out to you and to Elliott's wife and children in this hour. Words just fail to express what we would like to say. We have you all in our prayers that the sustaining grace and comfort of God may be yours in just the measure of your need.

Sincerely yours,

George H. Trull.

612  
170 S.M arengo Ave.,Pasadena,California.  
September 19th,1944

Dr.Robert Speer,  
156 Fifth A ve.  
New York City.

Dear Dr.Speer:-

We cannot refrain from writng a few words of sympathy to you and Mrs. Speer in these days of sorrow. Our hearts and prayers have gone out to you and to the other members of your family. How unnecessary and cruel it all seems. It must have been the work of some mad-man . From Mr.Mirtz, of our mission,who was a M t.Hermon boy we heard of your son's election to the Northfield Schools and of the high hopes every one had for the future. He has given his life for Christ just as much as if he had been killed by some bandit on the foreign field.

May God com fort your hearts and those of his wife and children.

Very sincerely yours

*David S. Tappan*

David S.Tappan

OK  
J. FREDERICK TALCOTT,  
225 FOURTH AVENUE  
N. Y. CITY

TELEPHONE  
ALGONQUIN 4  
7610  
7611  
7612  
CABLE ADDRESS  
QUOMAKEL

September 21, 1934.

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
24 Gramercy Park,  
New York, New York.

My dear Dr. Speer:

Please let me extend my  
sincerest sympathy to you in this  
time of your great grief and loss.

Faithfully yours,

  
J. Frederick Talcott

JFT-M

GR

The United Churches of Olympia

First Presbyterian

-

First Congregational

L. WENDELL TAYLOR, MINISTER

608 FRANKLIN STREET

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Sept. 15/34.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Just learned of the untimely death of your son. I had met and briefly enjoyed him at Easton, Pennsylvania when I was with the Student Volunteer Movement.

No words can begin to tell you of my feeling for you; for his mother and more than all for his wife and children. May the blessed healing of the Father's love be to ~~see~~ of you now.

So sincerely yours,

L. Wendell Taylor.

1075 California Street,  
September 16<sup>th</sup> 1934.

My dear Bob:

Words can be of little comfort in such a crushing sorrow, as has come so suddenly to Emma and you. However, I do want you both to know that you and all your dear ones are in our thoughts and have our warmest love and sympathy.

I feel in a maze: it all seems unreal — just that it cannot be.

Very affectionately yours,  
Will.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
24 Gramercy Park,  
New York City.

Jim Law



5"  
Personal

GEO. W. TRUETT  
PASTOR  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
DALLAS, TEXAS

Sept. 17, 1934

My dear Dr. Speer:

I have just read of the poignant bereavement that has come to you and your house, because of the tragic taking away of your cherished and nobly useful son.

Let me intrude for a moment upon the sacred privacy of your bereavement, to assure you of my profound and prayerful sympathy. I pray and shall pray, that you and yours may now and henceforth realize, as never before, that God's grace and promises are for you - and that they are sufficient for you!

Just know, as you go bravely on with your immeasurably blessed work, that myriads of your friends will now take you to their hearts, and pray for you more fervently than ever before! That God will ever graciously guide, comfort, strengthen and keep you and yours, in His own blessed keeping - is and shall be the

Fervent prayer of  
Your deeply sympathizing brother,  
Geo. W. Truett.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
New York City.



617

THE SWARTHMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

REV. JOHN ELLERY TUTTLE, D.D., LITT.D.

MISS JEAN DOCTOR  
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

MISS MARGARET S. TUTTLE  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

TREASURERS

HAROLD OGRAM  
OF THE CHURCH

HORACE B. WITMAN  
OF BENEVOLENCE

Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. 1934

My dear ~~Speer~~ Speer:-

It is impossible for one to express in words the grief and sympathy in my heart for you, your wife and family in the tragedy which has overwhelmed you all. It is one of those mysterious, dreadful experiences before which one can only stand and wait, in such trust as he can command, for the shining of the Father's face through the dark and the sound of His voice speaking peace. Such a vision, such a voice, will come to you and yours, yes, perhaps has already come, in such power to comfort as you have never known. May it, indeed, be so. To you and your wife, both of whom have been as the very presence of God to many, and to your bereaved daughter may the peace which our Saviour shed and promised to His own come in over-

flowing measure. I did not have the  
privilege of acquaintance with your son  
but shared the admiration felt for him  
by all who knew him. Yesterday, one  
of his Princeton undergraduate classmates,  
Ambrose Van Allen of Swarthmore, said  
to me of your son - "He never had, he  
never could have a enemy. He  
was a remarkable fellow, one of  
the finest men I have ever known."

Through the dark tragedy he has  
entered into the light of the face  
of his Lord;

Ever faithfully yours  
John Ellery Tuttle

Please do not attempt to  
acknowledge this -  
T

# HUNTING SLAYER OF SCHOOL HEAD

NORTHFIELD, Mass., Sept. 15.—  
(P)—The slaying of Elliott Speer in the study of his home on the campus of Mount Hermon school remained a mystery today as state police sought for clues.

Speer, principal of the boys' school, was shot to death last night as he sat reading. An assailant fired through a window overlooking a spacious lawn. Several shotgun pellets entered Speer's chest and state police dug several others from a wall. Two jagged holes in the curtainless closed window remained as evidence of the shooting.

The wife of the 35-year-old headmaster and her parents, Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Welles, the only other occupants of Ford Hall, their campus home, heard the gun's discharge. They knew of no motive for the shooting.

Speer, the father of three children, was the son of the Rev. Robert Elliott Speer, secretary of the Presbyterian board of foreign missions, and a trustee of the school.

*New-Tribune  
Taosna*



618  
Bethany Methodist Episcopal Church

PARK AVENUE AT 57TH STREET

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

ERNEST E. TUCK, PASTOR

September 16th 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer  
156 5th Ave  
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

I was shocked last evening to see in our local paper the story of the tragic death of your son Elliott. What a terrible thing that was! Only a mad man or some one crazed by some sort of demon could have done such a thing. And to think that this was done on the campus of Mt. Hermon! This terrible crime wave has now swept up into those peaceful and lovely hills of Northfield and taken the life of your son, when he was at the task of serving young and growing manhood.

Our very deep sympathy goes out to you and to his wife and young family. We did not know him except as you son and our hearts immediately went out to you and Mrs Speer in this great loss. Please be assured that even though the thousands of miles separate us at this time, Christian sympathy and love know no boundaries of space. My genuine respect for you and my deep regard for your noble Christian life lead me to send this little note of sympathy. May God be very gracious unto you and Mrs Speer during these hard days is the prayer in which Mrs Tuck joins me,

Very sincerely yours,

*Ernest E. Tuck*

Ernest E. Tuck.

ack.

St. Louis - Mo.

West Chester Pa -

9 - 21 - 34 -

Dealing Mrs Spear -

Another pair of beckoning  
hands for you - on the other  
side! Keep him in your  
prayer - and lift yourself  
to him thru your quest -  
meditation - and this deep  
"knowing".

Life is all one - this and  
the next - And they are near  
us - often as his angels -  
and ministering ones!

I know you are manifesting  
this faith - the world  
needs it.

Our grief is selfish - They  
are released into new joys  
and fulfillment - We can  
help them by our own  
same faith and knowing.

I often think of that  
great lunch we had  
together, and of Cal's near-  
ly meeting -

Affectionately yours -

Helena Pittman



Frank H Throop

24

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FRANK HARVEY THROOP, D. D., MINISTER  
COLUMBUS, OHIO

November 9, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer:

When some weeks ago the report came of the sudden and tragic death of your son Elliott, the whole nation responded as a friend and your loss became their loss and your sorrow was their sorrow. I realized the flood of correspondence that would come to you and so waited until today, realizing that as time goes on the first sudden grief mellows into something that becomes a part of us and I wanted you to know at this time that we are remembering you and praying that grace might be given you for this added burden.

The mysteries of God are too profound for any of us to fully understand but one thing we have learned through experience that life is not measured by length of days and perhaps in God's economies some live to the full their life in a few short, useful years while others must bear their burdens the full length of the span of a man's life.

I wish there was some word of cheer that I might bring as a fellow traveller but I only know that we become mellowed by the sorrows we are called upon to suffer and made more Christlike by some of the pains that come to us, for even the Son of God was made perfect through suffering. I have been reading with a good deal of care your book on "The Finality of Jesus Christ" and have found it very helpful and I am sure that its philosophy will help you greatly at this particular time. Mrs. Throop joins me in sending sincerest love to you and Mrs. Speer and to the fatherless children. Trusting that grace shall be given for this and every trial, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Frank H. Throop

525  
FREDERICK D. TUCKER  
5917 WASHINGTON BLVD.  
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>  
1934

Dr + Mrs Robert E. Speer  
150 Fifth Ave  
New York. N. Y.  
Dear Friends;

You would have received a message from me earlier, but for the fact that I am just recovering from an illness of several weeks. I can only say that you have my deepest sympathy in the great sorrow that has come to you, and to your daughter-in-law and your three grandchildren,

All that I might say in addition to the above, can hardly do much to comfort you. It is in my heart to say much and you can guess the import. . .  
Perhaps a word from

the misty past, and  
unexpected may cheer  
sorrow, I hope so, surely.

Well it is that we do  
not know the future;  
that <sup>in</sup> the bright days  
of '91, at Northfield, the  
scene; this awful shadow,  
we were not aware; what  
might befall over forty  
years later,

With that beautiful young  
life taken from you,  
by some dastardly friend,  
you yet have the glorious  
years that preceded  
with the baby, boy, youth  
and the man, if you would  
not surrender those years  
but thank God for them  
— precious memories,

May it be with you, dear  
friends, as it was said  
of Lincoln, that he saw  
the rainbow; God's love  
thru the prison; his tears

With heartfelt sympathy  
have thought  
of you often in Frederick D. Tucker  
your sorrow -  
Yale '92



GEORGE F. TIBBITTS  
Founder-Director

710

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NATIONAL  
CAMP  
and HEALTH  
LEAGUE

---



---

GOSPEL  
VOLUNTEERS  
of the  
WORLD

---

*Sunrise in the Adirondacks*  
November 7, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer,

Mrs. Tibbitts and I have deeply  
sympathized with you and Mrs. Speer  
in your recent bereavement.

I have not had the courage to write  
before, as words cannot express to you  
our sorrow at such a loss.

I want you to know, however, that  
we are remembering you constantly in our  
morning devotions.

Most faithfully yours,

*George F. Tibbitts*  
George F. Tibbitts,  
CAMP-of-the-PALMS,  
Keystone Heights, Florida.

GFT:p

# National Camp and Health League

## TESTIMONIES

### BROOKLYN, NEW YORK:

Allow me to express my appreciation for the wholesome privileges found at CAMP-of-the-WOODS. This was my 21st season and I can truly say that every year grows better.—LEANDER BRIMLOW.

### TARENTUM, PA.:

CAMP-of-the-WOODS has been a delight to me, far surpassing expectations. It combines sane, cheery, wholesome, spiritual atmosphere with unusual natural beauties and physical advantages.—HOMER C. RENTON, Pastor, First Methodist Episcopal Church.

### MEADVILLE, PA.:

It is a refreshing experience to find a vacation place built around a chapel instead of a dance hall. My two weeks at CAMP-of-the-WOODS convince me that your work is unique. It is constructive, wholesome, natural and complete. Your influence, already world-wide, will continue to grow.—FRANK P. MILLER.

### WALLINGFORD, PA.:

The few days that Mrs. Hershey and I were at the CAMP-of-the-WOODS were inspiring, restful and renewed us in body, mind and soul. You have again emphasized the fact that spiritual atmosphere renews the whole man, and that eternal values make for material strength and joy, yes, and a realization that eternal life begins here and now.—JOHN HERSHEY.

### MIAMI, FLORIDA:

We came to CAMP-of-the-WOODS for a rest and for a complete change of climate. We got both and also many other benefits which we did not anticipate. It has been a vacation surrounded by Christian influences which emphasizes the Christ-like standards of right living. It is indeed a worthy objective. We thank you for such an outdoor opportunity where physical and spiritual health may be obtained and for the congenial fellowship.—REV. D. H. ARTHUR.

### BOSTON, MASS.:

CAMP-of-the-WOODS is a beautiful spot where one can rest as well as play. The service in the auditorium every morning is a wonderful inspiration. It starts the day with praise and thanksgiving and helps us to recognize the Source of all Blessings. You are doing a remarkable work and we congratulate you on its far-reaching influence. CAMP-of-the-WOODS is different from anything we have ever seen and we hasten to make known its many benefits both physical and spiritual, to our friends.  
—GEORGE HOWLAND HARDING.

### TRENTON, N. J.

When summer draws near, do you sit and ponder where to spend your vacation? Would you like to sojourn for a time in a spot where you would receive health from the invigorating pine breezes, enjoyment from refreshing types of recreation, happiness from lasting friendships, and strength from stimulating spiritual helpfulness, all of which will bring you back to home duties and business engagements with renewed energy and a greater desire to be of help to others? Then write to CAMP-of-the-WOODS for your reservations.—MRS. J. MILTON BAKER.

### WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.:

We came for one day and stayed for eight weeks! Perhaps that speaks more eloquently than words of the benefit and pleasure we derived from our stay at CAMP-of-the-WOODS. We were surprised at the sandy beach, which rivals any seashore we had ever seen; and there were so many outdoor sports to engage in, and so many agreeable people to meet, that there was never a dull moment. It was also delightful to observe the eager spirit in which the whole camp, including the eighty splendid young counsellors, as well as the guests, voluntarily joined in the services of song and praise, and to hear the simple, sincere messages that "Pop" Tibbitts gave. It seems to us that this regular worship of the Great Creator in the midst of His beauties of mountain, sky, and lake, gives the Camp an atmosphere that sets it apart, by itself, and that a great work is being done for the young people who throng to the Camp. I cannot tell you how much we enjoyed it all. We hope to be there again.—GEORGE W. SMYTH, Judge, Children's Court, County of Westchester.



# Gospel Volunteers of the World

## TESTIMONIES

### EGYPT:

Your "Foundation Studies" have been printed in Arabic, and are now being distributed in Egypt, Palestine and Syria.—**REV. H. E. PHILIPS**, Cairo.

### NEW YORK CITY:

I think that the work you are doing is a fine and inspiring one. May the Lord's richest blessing rest upon your undertaking.—**MARGARET E. SANGSTER**, The Christian Herald Bible House.

### OHIO:

I commend you in your effort to stimulate a habit of daily devotional Bible reading as an inestimable service to this day and generation.—**SIMEON D. FESS**, U. S. Senator from Ohio.

### SWITZERLAND:

The Gospel Volunteers of the World is a wonderful work, and I believe it is the most effective way of stimulating consistent devotional study of the Bible.—**DR. ELMER BERRY**, Geneva, Y. M. C. A. Training College.

### JAPAN:

We are following you and your work in our prayers. Your visit to our association was a great inspiration, and we often talk about it.—**SOICHI SAITO**, General Secretary Y. M. C. A., Tokyo.

### NEW JERSEY:

I must write to you, expressing my appreciation of the Gospel Volunteer booklets. I have examined them carefully, and am delighted with your plan for personal evangelism.—**REV. SAMUEL M. ZWEMER, D.D.**, Princeton.

### NEW YORK CITY:

The Bible is the one Book that fits all ages, all classes and all circumstances of life. No habit is so valuable to young or old as that of constant and persistent Bible reading.—**J. C. PENNEY**.

### NEW YORK CITY:

I am greatly interested in the work of the Gospel Volunteers of the World. Any one who can induce others to read the Bible is doing a needed piece of work. I rejoice with you in all you are accomplishing.—**REV. CHARLES E. JEFFERSON, LL.D.**, Broadway Tabernacle.

### CALIFORNIA:

I take the pleasure of saying to you that I know of nothing anywhere that is so constructive in its value and yet so sensible in its occurrence and so attractive in its work-out as the type of work you have lent yourself to through these years.—**REV. OTTO H. HOUSER, D.D.**, Berkeley.

### NEW YORK CITY:

I hope that the Gospel Volunteers of the World will grow more and more in extent and usefulness. There is nothing more important for spiritual health and strength than daily reading of the Bible thoughtfully and prayerfully. Your "Topic-A-Day" and other booklets are a great help.—**DELA- VAN L. PIERSON**, Editor Missionary Review of the World.

### WASHINGTON, D. C.:

In these times of troublous problems it becomes more than ever apparent to the thoughtful man or woman that there is no place where they can turn for more sound counsel, courage and inspiration than the pages of the Book of Books. **THE GOSPEL VOLUNTEERS OF THE WORLD** meets this vital need.—**RUTH BRYAN OWENS**.

### OHIO:

I have known George F. Tibbitts personally for many years, and have had ample opportunity for an appraisal of the gracious work which he carries on at **CAMP-of-the-WOODS** and throughout the world. Those cooperating with him render a service of great value to any church or community. I count it a privilege to bear this testimony.—**DR. WILLIAM A. HUDNUT**, First Presbyterian Church, Youngstown.



## CAMP-of-the-WOODS

**CAMP-of-the-WOODS** on Lake Pleasant is located in the Adirondack Park at an altitude of 1724 feet in a picturesque region abounding in hundreds of lakes and streams. The Sacandaga and Kun-ja-Muck Rivers are known as the canoeists' paradise.

The Great Sand Beach has become a famous playground for both the young and the old. The white and crystal-like sand reaches far out into the water, has a gradual slope, and is free from rocks, holes, or dangerous places. On this ocean-like beach and in this altitude the sun's strong and penetrating rays have proven to be of great benefit to those who come tired out or in a run-down physical condition. Canoeists may follow nearby rivers and streams that wind through the forests, and here and there widen into a beautiful lake or a mysterious bay.

**CAMP-of-the-WOODS** is a convenient center for motor trips to the Thousand Islands, St. Lawrence River and Rapids, Lake George, Lake Champlain, Ausable Chasm, John Brown's Grave, Saratoga and the battlefields, Niagara Falls, Montreal, and Quebec. The cities in all directions are now connected with the camp by concrete state highways. Other roads meet at this point and pass through the most interesting and scenic sections of the Adirondacks. Fascinating trails wind through the forests, beside the streams, around the lakes, and into the heart of the wildest and most beautiful regions of the Great North Woods.

Last season guests came from three hundred and ninety-eight cities and towns including twenty-five states and Canada. Thirty-five colleges and universities and forty-two denominations and Christian organizations were represented. Eighty-five counsellors, young men and women, assisted in the organization and work of supervision.

The aim of the **NATIONAL CAMP AND HEALTH LEAGUE** is to bring together a congenial company of people and to make possible a delightful fellowship.

An illustrated booklet, "**VACATION DAYS**", containing testimonials and full information, will be forwarded on request.

Every time I go to **CAMP-of-the-WOODS** I feel more strongly than ever that its wonderful success is due to the simplicity and the sincerity of a high aim, which impresses and attracts thoughtful people. My family begin to plan for the coming summer as soon as they return home. This was our seventh season and we all agree that every year is better than the previous one.—**E. CHESTER GERSTEN**, New York City.







## CAMP-of-the-PALMS

CAMP-of-the-PALMS on Lake-of-Bays, Florida, has been established as the WINTER SUNSHINE REFUGE of the National Camp and Health League and the Gospel Volunteers of the World.

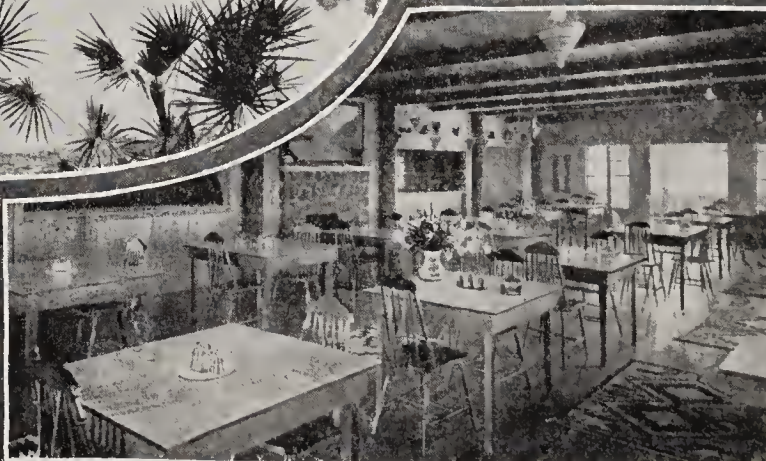
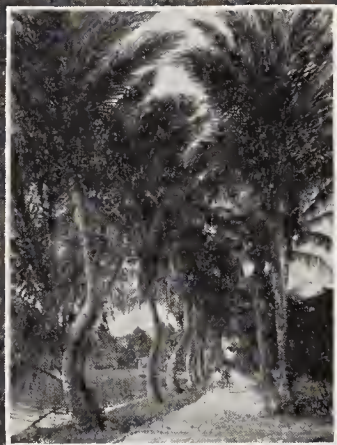
It is located in a rugged and picturesque region in north-central Florida and is surrounded by many crystal-like lakes. Sixty-five acres extend along the shore with a white sand beach. The ground gradually rises to higher plateaus from which a delightful view can be obtained. Palms, vines, palmettos, shrubbery, and live oaks with hanging moss add to the beauty of the camp. Permanent buildings have been erected. These include a social center, a dining hall, an auditorium, cottages and cabins overlooking the lake and hills.

Those who have made a study of the winter resorts in America agree that Florida is the only state which offers a sunshine haven within easy and safe motor distance of those residing in the United States and Canada. This land of health and winter cheer offers June-like days in January, February and March, when the north is gripped by ice and snow. Here you can avoid the dangers of head colds, influenza, and pneumonia. This Ridge district provides excellent drainage and soft, pure drinking water. Swedish massage baths, outdoor exercise, tennis, bowling and other games may be enjoyed here. The sunshine, the crisp dry air of this Egypt-like climate, the delightful fellowship, and the fresh fruits and vegetables make this a natural and safe health center.

Those who wish to visit other parts of the state have found CAMP-of-the-PALMS a convenient headquarters. It is midway between the Atlantic Coast and the Gulf. The following cities are within easy reach: Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Daytona, Palm Beach, Gainesville, Ocala, Palatka, Deland, Orlando, Tampa, and St. Petersburg.

Here you will find inexpensive living, modern conveniences, health, happiness, and a winter home in the "Land of Flowers." An illustrated booklet will be mailed free upon request.

We all returned home from Florida strong, happy, and healthy. What we gained in those few weeks proved the wisdom of establishing a place like CAMP-of-the-PALMS for those who need, in the winter, a sunshine refuge.—J. A. FERRIS, Rutherford, New Jersey.







## The Gospel Volunteers of the World

THE simple outdoor life at CAMP-of-the-WOODS in the Adirondack Park, New York, and at CAMP-of-the-PALMS in Florida helps to provide physical health, while the Gospel Volunteers of the World aims to produce that spiritual health which endures. The object of this movement is to encourage daily devotional Bible reading that others may know the true standards of right living and the Source of peace and life. The close relationship of the body and the soul makes it difficult to separate the temporal from the eternal. The third epistle of John, second verse, emphasizes this important truth: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

Medical authorities tell us that the average lifetime of an American is forty-one years. Why, then, should we spend all of our thought and time on so short a period? The Bible declares "All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand forever." Isa. 40:6, 8. For this reason the Gospel Volunteers of the World deals with the health of the soul, believing that eternal life can only be found in Jesus Christ. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." John 17:3.

A three-year course of Bible readings has been compiled. For the first year, a booklet entitled "A-Topic-A-Day" contains three hundred and sixty-five subjects selected from the New Testament; for the second year, "Life's First Essentials" is selected from the entire Bible; for the third year, "Follow Me" is taken from the life of Christ. A series of twenty-five lessons, "Foundation Studies," including the great themes of the Bible, is freely distributed. There is no charge made for any of these publications. They are also mailed free anywhere in the world.

Those who have spent their vacations at CAMP-of-the-WOODS or at CAMP-of-the-PALMS freely testify to the life-giving qualities of the sunshine, pure air, wholesome food, and happy fellowship. With the same assurance hundreds now recognize the value of the health of the soul. "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36, 37.

### GOSPEL VOLUNTEERS OF THE WORLD

Cliffside Park      Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York

George F. Tibbitts, Founder and Director

There is no other book with which the Bible can be compared and no other reading that means so much to the human race. It is the support of the strong and the consolation of the weak; the dependence of organized government, and the foundation of religion.

—CALVIN COOLIDGE, Ex-President.





My deepest sympathy  
to all the family.

Miss Henrietta Thompson

Phila. 67

38 Union Ave

579

. Mr. and Mrs. Warren Crosby Taylor

With our prayers  
and deepest sympathies  
Schenectady, New York

all my dear love and  
sympathy, and I wish  
there were anything I  
could do - You are in  
my heart and thoughts  
all the time -

. A. C. T.

adms

Mrs. Townsend

Che. Beckman Place

Townsend Place  
Cyster Bay



Ans  
657



The GREENBRIER and COTTAGES  
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS  
WEST VIRGINIA

My dear Bobby

You must know how  
your friends feel at this  
time, — but I cannot refrain  
from saying a word.

While I am not one who  
feels or says "Everything is  
for the best" — "ordained of  
the Lord" — except as such  
expressions signify a willingness  
to accept a scheme which we  
do not fully understand — I

do believe that matters work out  
very much as we take - and  
reach to - them.

Besides one does not reach  
his destination by too much  
thought about the difficulties of  
the road.

Many men have been diverted  
from their objectives and  
ruined by less than has come  
to you now. a few  
have been made bigger

We must go on.

Affectingly

John R. Cook

Sept 19. 34.

Ans  
410

YALE UNIVERSITY  
DIVINITY SCHOOL  
409 PROSPECT STREET  
NEW HAVEN · CONNECTICUT

My Dear Dr. Spurr:  
Ever since the  
news of the tragedy reached  
me you have been very much  
in my heart and mind. My  
first thought was to write  
you immediately; but it  
seemed almost unkind to  
burden both you and your  
mail during those heart-breaking  
days, even with another  
message of sympathy.

Now, however, less for your sake than my own, I must at least tell you how much I loved and admired Elliott, and how confidently I looked forward to his having a long and happy life spent in effective service for the coming of the Kingdom of God. No more words of mine are needed. You know already all that thousands of friends could say. When Lowell's little daughter died, Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote me lines; "I clasp your hand in silence." I know that the silence will be vocal.

In full friendship and with deepest sympathy for you all, believe me,

Cordially yours,  
Henry St. J. Ford

3 October, 1934

This note need not be acknowledged in any way.  
Please do not let me add to your burdens.



Orco On train: Nyack to New York  
September 25 1934

Very dear Doctor Spear:

You and Mrs. Spear have been on our minds very much the past week. (We are now passing through Englewood, and I remember often the ride on the same train with you from N.Y., though you were generally absorbed in work or thought, and only occasionally did I have the pleasure of a word with you). Our sympathy is very great for you, as is that of very many about us, and the world over. You will receive evidence of this by many letters and personal messages, yet I feel that I must also join verbally in such expression.

Of course no explanation comes to mind of this terrible affliction to you and your dear Son's immediate family, but our deepest



trips - and it has helped me still. I  
remember how beautifully you then spoke  
of your association and friendship with your  
Son as illustrating the love of God and  
His fellowship with man, and desire to be intimate with  
them.

May the future be aglow with hope and  
expectation and knowledge of redemption.

When no untoward interruptions can  
ever occur and when the explanations

of the great mysteries will make us all  
recognize even the kind hand of Providence.

This is a very crude expression of the tender feelings that prompt the  
message. My own and my family's Christian affection  
goes with it to you and Mrs. Spurr, in the only way we can  
share your burden, to which we would gladly be participants  
if that were possible. Sincerely yours George J. Thompson

hope and belief is that the grace  
given <sup>to</sup> so many of those who  
suffer will be yours in wonderful  
measure and commensurate with  
<sup>the grief.</sup> Your life is an inspiration to  
your fellow-Christians everywhere,  
and I think that thousands  
think daily of you, and the  
reverend life and able and  
consecrated record that is  
your history.

I remember Mr. & Mrs. Thonken  
kiss love for you, Are not  
all the dear ones on the other  
side now writing in sympathy  
and love for you.

I very often think of the  
great help you were to the  
audience in the theatre in the  
Thanksgiving Day address in  
Rochester about 1930 when  
I was there on a business

MRS. PAUL DE WITT TWINEM  
FIFTEEN PROSPECT STREET  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

211

OCT. 5. 1934

Dear Friends:

Knowing that you are  
sacredly rejoicing in the great new  
joys which are now the happy pos-  
session of your dear son, I am sure  
you will want to say "Amen" to this  
enclosed prayer which has meant so much  
to me ever since the "glorious promotion" of my

husband.

Surely God has extraordinarily trusted you to trust Him these days - and I am so thankful you have proved worthy of such honour. May men more and more - throughout the whole world - worthily honour Him and our loving living Christ by perfect confidence and unshatterable loyalty.

Prayerfully and affectionately  
(Mrs. Pamel D.) Mary Jane Twine

WE seem to give <sup>him</sup> ~~her~~ back to Thee, dear  
God, who gavest <sup>him</sup> ~~her~~ to us. Yet, as  
Thou didst not lose <sup>him</sup> ~~her~~ in giving, so we  
have not lost <sup>him</sup> ~~her~~ by <sup>his</sup> ~~her~~ return. Not as  
the world givest, givest Thou, O Lover of  
souls! What Thou givest, Thou takest  
not away. For what is Thine is ours al-  
ways, if we are Thine. And life is eter-  
nal; and love is immortal; and death is  
only a horizon; and a horizon is nothing  
save the limit of our sight. Lift us up,  
strong Son of God, that we may see fur-  
ther; cleanse our eyes, that we may see  
more clearly; draw us closer to Thyself,  
that so we may know ourselves nearer to  
our beloved who are with Thee. And  
while Thou dost prepare a place for us,  
prepare us for that happy place, that  
where they are and Thou art, we too may  
be. Amen.

—R. W. Raymond

ack.

LOUISE ANDREWS CAMP  
EAST NORTHFIELD, MASS.

Cape Cod  
Sept 19. 1934

My dear Mrs Speer:-

I want to let you know that  
my deepest thoughts and sym-  
pathies go out to you these  
days, in the terrible blow  
that has come to you and  
Dr Speer in the tragic death  
of your son.

How impossible to explain  
such apparently, needless waste  
of promise & splendid young



life! One can but fall back  
on the certainties of God and  
Christ and Life eternal and  
know, that "all things work together  
for good to them that trust Him"

My deepest sympathies  
are with you all these days.

Sincerely, yours

Henrietta Thomson

Sec'y of the Northfield League

*note.*  
—

Mrs. William Ellsworth Tucker

My deepest sympathy  
and heartfelt sorrow  
are yours at this time.

Christine W. Tucker.

Mrs M. Y. Taylor

Belleville Pa.

Oct. 26, 1934

226 E. 11th St.

My Dear Dr. Speer, -

The Nancy Arlison  
Missionary Society of  
the Belleville Presbyterian  
Church, at its recent  
meeting, wishes to  
extend to Dr. and Mrs.  
Speer their united  
and sincere sympathy  
for the recent untimely  
loss of their son Dr. Elliot  
Speer.

we feel that a  
man so gifted as  
he, should have  
been spared to  
continue his work,  
and grieve with  
you that this is not  
so. Believe me,  
you have our heartfelt  
sympathy.

Sincerely Yours,  
Mary K. Taylor

Address -  
Mrs. M. K. Taylor Sec.  
226 E. Lo inn St.  
Belleville Pa.

ack.

Englewood New Jersey

My dear Mrs. Speer -

Many days have  
passed since the cruel  
taking of your dear One -  
at first, it seemed  
impossible for me to intrude  
upon you with words.

Silence is sometimes  
the kindest way -  
but I do want you to know  
that, - in the love I bear  
my own Son - I have



suffered deeply with you,  
and with all those  
dear to you - and  
to him -

"God's Plan" - has seemed  
frustrated - Perhaps there  
is a Larger Plan!

With Love, sincerely  
Your friend

Anna W. Taussig

October. third  
1934

602

My Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer!.

Mrs. Lucker and I desire to assure <sup>you</sup> of our most profound sympathy and our prayers for you and the members of your family in the deep sorrow and loss that has come to you in the sudden and tragic death of your devoted and distinguished son, Dr. Elliot Speer.

We know you are fully acquainted with the source from whence

Come with comfort, help and  
sustaining grace at a time  
like this.

We are hoping that this  
little word from us bearing  
the reassurance of love and  
intercession may help in  
some way to bring you  
nearer the Throne of Blessing  
and the Throne of Blessing  
nearer and more real  
to you.

With love and sympathy  
we are in the bonds  
of fellowship

Very truly yours

(Mr. & Mrs.) H. C. Lucke

45 Albany Road,  
Waban, Mass.

227 South Vendome Street  
Los Angeles, California

My dear Friends:

Surely the sympathy of our whole church, all across the country, is pouring silently to you today. But because I love and honor you both personally, may I be one of the many to speak my grief in this tragic sorrow which has come to you. I remember, too, so tenderly, the little daughter of this home.

whom I saw at  
Lakeville, to whom  
has come a sorrow  
that must be life-long.

Oh, how we yearn  
to help you! We do  
pray the Comforter to  
be very near you, to  
fill your loneliness  
with His peace.

With a heartful of  
love and sympathy,  
Faithfully your friend  
Alice Elyse Thomas  
(Mrs. David M.)

September 16.

With our united and most  
tender thoughts, dear Doctor  
and Mrs. Speer.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Frederick Talcott

adm /

Sixteen East Sixty-sixth Street



156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

September 18, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Speer:

So many friends have sent you their sympathy and affection in the great sorrow that has come to your family, that nothing I can say will be new. But I want you and Mr. Speer, and your daughter-in-law and the dear children, to know how deeply I have sorrowed with you. I know that you have all been buoyed up and "kept close to the heart of God" these days by the

great volume of prayer here at 156.  
And I am glad that I have had the right  
to join in those prayers.

Not only I, but each one of the four  
helpers in the office of "Women and Mis-  
sions," has felt your sorrow as a personal  
loss. The sudden cutting off of such a  
fine life as your son's is one of those  
"mysteries that are too great for us." But  
there is a heavenly plan, and he is part  
of it. I am praying daily for your comfort.

Faithfully yours,

Lucea P. Towne.

Dear Friends:-

029

We can not adequately  
express our sympathy nor  
the depth of our sorrow.

Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Tillinghast

Dec. 17, 1934 258 Riverside Drive  
NY

029

Heartfelt sympathy

Ida G. Terry

Travel Department.

## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

(47).

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

ID42 29 NL=E9=LAKEPLACID NY 24

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

156 FIFTH AVE NEWYORK NY=

1934 SEP 24 PM 4 47

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

ONLY LEARNED SATURDAY NIGHT OF THE TRAGEDY STOP MY  
HEART GOES OUT IN LOVING SYMPATHY FOR YOU MRS SPEER  
AND ALL THE FAMILY STOP MAY HE GIVE YOU PEACE=

AUNT SOPHIA.

R. E. Speer

SEP 25 1934

## CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

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Received at

GR148 8=CLIFTONSPRINGS NY SEP 15 517P

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

MATHERMON SCHOOL EASTNORTHFIELD MASS

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

=LOVING SYMPATHY FROM ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS HERE:

=ADRAIN TAYLOR.

551P



BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

1223-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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GR13 9=FI NEWYORK NY SEP 15 827A

DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

MOUNTHERMON SCHOOL FOR BOYS NORTHFIELD MASS=

DEEP AND SINCERE SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE=

HARRIET TAYLOR.

1937A

57

W. Norwalk Rd., Darien  
Sept. 18

Dear Friends:

I have just learned  
of the terrible Tragedy which  
has come to your family circle.  
May I tell you of my very real  
sympathy in your great sorrow.  
May the "God of all comfort"  
be very near to you all.

Very sincerely,

Louetta B. Taylor  
[Mrs. Andrew Todd Taylor]

67

THE RUNWAY  
KEENE VALLEY, N.Y.

Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 34

Dear Dr. Speer

This brings to you and  
all your family our af-  
fectionate sympathy.

Your friend of many years,

H. R. Taylor  
—

57



105 E. Essex Ave  
Lansdowne, Pa.

September 16, 1934

Dear Dr. + Mrs. Speer,

To night it still seems impossible that that the shocking news of your son's, Elliott's, death can be true. My picture of him is so much one of vitality and friendliness.

May I express my sympathy for both of you and for his

wife and children. My prayers  
go out for all of you.

May God be with you all.

Sincerely,

Midge

(Majorie L. Trent.)

57

OURHOUSE  
CHRISTMAS COVE  
MAINE

My dear Friends:.

I must send just  
a line to tell you of my deep  
sympathy and my prayer that  
God's presence will be my real  
to you in these tragic days.

May you feel even in greater  
measure than you can know



Before that. "Underneath are  
the everlasting arms"

I would be one of the great  
throng of friends surrounding  
you with prayer at this time.

In deep sincerity

Thence G. Dyer.

Sept 18

adv.

UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Indianapolis, Ind.  
Sept. 20, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Speer,

To express to you and  
Dr. Speer my loving sympathy  
in this sad experience.

Lela E. Taylor.

Sincere sympathy - on

Miss Eva B. Taylor.

Columbton, Ore

24 18 West 18<sup>th</sup> St.

Miss. Mary. A. Taylor.

OS

# Union Avenue Methodist Church, South

UNION AVENUE AT COOPER STREET

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Sept. 19-'34.

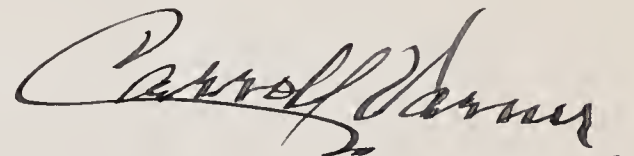
Dr. Robert E. Speer,  
Englewood, N.J.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

Just a note from one who loves you deeply and to whom you have been a constant inspiration since my College days to express to you and your family my very great sympathy in the loss of your very dear son. The newspapers away down here have had news items concerning the whole thing ever since it happened, thus we are able to keep up with developments.

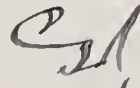
There is only one thing I can do, and that I am doing - to remember you constantly at a throne of grace. May He Whom you and yours have so earnestly served sustain you in a wonderful way through it all !

With great love,



P.S.

Please do not even acknowledge receipt of this note; you have too much on you already.



all

DAVIS, DORLAND & Co.  
150 NASSAU STREET  
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE  
VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Dr<sup>r</sup> Spear,

Please accept my sincere  
sympathy.

Having lost my twenty three  
year old son two weeks ago, I know  
exactly what trying times Mrs. Spear  
and you are passing through.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence A. Van Doren.



243

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS  
REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA  
48 EAST EIGHTH STREET  
TELEPHONE 9423  
HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

REV. W. J. VAN KERSEN, D.D.  
DISTRICT SECRETARY

Dear Dr. Speer:-

I was very much shocked to read in Saturday's paper that your son Elliott had been shot and killed by some unknown party, while your son was engaged in his work in his study.

I wish to assure you and your son's family of my deep sympathy with you and them in their great and tragic loss.

Long experience in the service of Christ has revealed to you again and again the wonderful resources of God's grace available for God's afflicted saints. Our prayer is that in this tremendous blow you may again experience that "indestructible are the everlasting arms"

Very sincerely yours

W. J. Van Kersen



68

CHURCH OFFICE: TRINITY 2-1931  
PASTOR'S STUDY: TRINITY 2-6529

## WOODWARD AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WOODWARD AND PHILADELPHIA AVENUES

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

ROY EWING VALE, D. D., LL. D.  
MINISTERCLARK NEALE EDWARDS  
ASSISTANT MINISTER

September 29, 1934

Dear Doctor Speer:

Ever since the news of the terrible tragedy which took away your brilliant son, you and Mrs. Speer have been daily in my thought. Our presbytery sent you a message expressing our united feeling for you. It and and this will be among many thousands that will come to you.

Upon the sacredness of your sorrow none should intrude. And only those who have suffered in some similar way can come to you with full understanding. Not having passed through your experience, yet having endured other heartbreak that taught the fellowship of abiding pain, I do venture this expression of sympathy for you and yours.



WOODWARD AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WOODWARD AND PHILADELPHIA AVENUES

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

ROY EWING VALE, D. D., LL. D.

MINISTER

CLARK NEALE EDWARDS

ASSISTANT MINISTER

2

It is often said that time heals all wounds. I do not think so at all. Rather, time gives opportunity to gather strength to bear the pain. And strength does come from the Hidden Source. With all my heart I pray and shall continue to pray that sufficient strength may be given to you and Mrs. Speer to sustain this cross laid upon your hearts in a time of already crushing burdens.

Please do not take time to acknowledge this, but accept it as coming from one who for many years has held you in admiration and love, and who would do a great deal to help you if he could.

Sincerely your friend,  
Roy Ewing Vale



MS  
THE NEW YORK NEWS BUREAU ASSOCIATION  
32 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

MELVIN J. WOODWORTH  
PRESIDENT

Sept. 18, 1934.

Rev. Robert E. Speer, D.D.,  
Senior Secretary,  
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions,  
156 - 5th Ave.,  
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

While a student in Hamilton College more than 40 years ago, it was my privilege to attend the Student conference for young men <sup>at Northfield</sup> and to listen to your talks on the Bible. In 1894-95, following graduation from college, I taught at Mt. Hermon. In the many years that have intervened I have retained a keen interest in the Northfield Schools.

It has been my pleasure within that time to hear you speak occasionally, a few years ago before the Men's Club of Munn Ave. Church of East Orange, N.J., of which Rev. Robert Brewster Beattie, D.D. is pastor, and of which I have been a member for more than 30 years. Each time I have seen and heard you during this long period, I have been so strongly impressed with the wonderful influence for good that you have exerted the world over.

As the father of four grown children, two boys and two girls, for whose rearing and education I have worked hard and sacrificed much, I can sympathize with you keenly in the inexpressible sorrow through which Mrs. Speer and you have been called so suddenly and unexpectedly to pass.

THE NEW YORK NEWS BUREAU ASSOCIATION  
32 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

-2-

MELVIN J. WOODWORTH  
PRESIDENT

I am so glad that both of you have a source from which to draw the only true consolation and comfort possible in such a terrible experience. When one Christian man addresses another christian with your outstanding experience and useful life it is quite unnecessary to make formal expression of sympathy in connection with such an awful tragedy as has come into your life. Without any seeming formality, but rather with absolute sincerity I want you to know that I feel for you most keenly and deeply.

Very sincerely yours,

*R. W. Vincent,*

RAILROAD EDITOR.

" transferred -  
Three narrowing circles as the  
years advance,  
Recurring messages of com-  
rades gone,  
Of faces faces love can look  
upon,  
Are not the healing thrusts of  
surgeon's lance,  
But high investment, fatherly  
finance;  
Their recurring loss, God's great  
exchange instead,  
His heavenly deposits sent  
ahead



Our riches, not to lessen, but enhance!  
The ever furres left to us below  
Deeper to gold in heaven is com-  
ing glow.  
The friends He takes, our spirit  
wealth of yore,  
Are heaven's riches daily  
growing more,  
Will we earth's past presents  
in memory's niche.  
Enter our Father's House, our  
passing rich!'

97

MRS. WALDO B. UTLEY, 3406 VERSAILLES BOULEVARD, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

My dear friends:-  
You have been in  
my heart & in my mind  
constantly since I read of  
your terrible loss. I wish  
hard to write to those who  
have an implicit faith,  
but my mother's loss  
helps so well, & as many  
things have kept me  
from writing until now.

MRS. WALDO B. UTLEY, 3406 VERSAILLES BOULEVARD, NEW ORLEANS, LA.

You have had countless mes-  
sages & letters from friends  
far more influential than I  
but I don't feel there is a  
one who has felt for you  
more deeply - It's wonderful  
how God can let our love  
& sympathy stretch across  
the miles, & how friends &  
loved ones can pray a com-  
mon prayer for those in  
common. & how much we

have to look forward to in  
the land that is fairer than  
day! So many things we  
cannot realize yet, but here  
will be made plain there -  
do no hard crosses, not  
to pray to be translated to the  
joy that awaits!

I can not feel  
that all is well, when darkening  
clouds conceal

the shining sun:  
But then I know  
and live & love; & pray, since

it is so,  
They will be done.

I can not speak  
In happy tones; the tears drop  
on my cheeks

Shew I am sad;  
But I can speak  
Of grace to suffer with  
mission well  
until made glad.

I do not see  
Why God should ever per-  
mit some things to be,  
When He is love;

But I can see,  
through often drily, through  
the mystery,  
His hand above.  
I do not look  
upon the present, nor in Nature's  
book,  
To read my fate;  
But I do look  
For promised blessings in  
God's holy Book;  
And I can wait—  
I know your heart ache—



much I wish I had tomorrow —  
there are so many things  
I'd like to write, but I might  
tire you —

Just these few pathetic little  
servences, hoping you can  
catch a glimpse of all I'd  
like to tell you if I could —  
"And in the morning, those  
angel faces smile;  
which we have loved long  
since

And lost awhile —"

With my deepest sympathy  
or a prayer for you to possess  
that peace that passeth  
understanding—

Sincerely,

Waldo B. Utley.

Thursday night.

1934 SEP 17 PM 8 47

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION MS

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## SIGNALS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

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Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

G153CC 6M 46 DL VIA N RDD

DETROIT MICH 429P SEP 17 1934

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

DR ROBERT E SPEER

156 5 AVE NYK

DETROIT PRESBYTERY IN SESSION TODAY DIRECTED ME TO EXPRESS TO YOU  
OUR DEEP SYMPATHY IN THE TRAGIC SORROW THAT HAS DARKENED YOUR HOME  
MAY I ADD MY DEEPEST PERSONAL SYMPATHY AND ASSURE YOU OF OUR ERNEST  
PRAYERS FOR GODS COMFORT AND LEADING IN THIS DARK HOUR

JOSEPH A VANCE

828P

647

Palisades Park, N. Y.,  
September 18th. —

Dear Dr. Speer,

Margaret and I wish  
just to add our expression  
of deep sympathy in the  
tragedy that has entered  
your home. It was not my  
privilege ever to have  
known Elliott, tho of course  
Margaret has known him  
for years.

Will you convey our  
affectionate sympathy to Mrs.

speler. We have thought of you  
much in prayer and in  
conversation, and we know  
that beyond all human help  
and recourse, will come the  
sustaining reassurance of His  
abiding love and concern.

Very sincerely yours,

Malcolm Van Dyke

57



106 E Church St  
Orlando, Fla  
Sept 23, '34

My dear Dr. Speer:—

I was deeply  
distressed to hear  
of the death of your  
son Elliott.

I am praying that  
our Heavenly Father will  
sustain and comfort  
you and your family  
in this time of sorrow.

Assuming you of  
my deepest sympathy

I am,

Very sincerely,  
Anne M. Vandewater.



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## Received at

GR41 17=WUX NEWYORK NY SEP 15 1023A

## MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

TRY PHONE OR DELIVER MOTHERMON SCHOOL FOR BOYS

NORTHFIELD MASS=

LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY MAY I HELP THERE OR HERE

TELEPHONE RAYMOND NINE TWO THREE SEVEN THREE=

ANNA VOGEL.

1048A

*Wrote note  
has been  
sent*

CLASS OF SERVICE

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R. B. WHITE  
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Received at

GR64 8=NEWYORK NY SEP 16 104P

MRS ROBERT E SPEER=

EASTNORTHFIELD MASS=

MY PROFOUNDTEST SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY=

MAY B VANARSDALE.

153P

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

*ack  
Aut 12*

Ans  
A57.34

667 MADISON AVENUE

September 22,  
1934.

C. D. VAN WAGENEN, M. D.  
9 A. M. TO 1 P. M.  
AND BY APPOINTMENT

My dear Bob:—

I have been so overcome by the tragedy which has come upon you and your family that I have been unable to compose myself to the point of writing to you.

I think I express the deep and abiding sorrow of our Class, as well as myself, for you in this time of trial, and

do hope that these lines from me will be  
of some comfort and will aid you to  
carry on. With very great sympathy  
for you, I remain,

Affectionately & Sincerely  
Bandy.

51  
WM. H. VAIL, A. M., M. D.  
141 SECOND AVENUE  
NEWARK, N. J.

Sept. 18, 1934.

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Speer.

Mrs. Vail and I wish to express, in a few words, our heartfelt sympathy for you, as you are passing through one of the severest trials of your wedded life together.

Our object in writing, just this line, is not to strengthen your faith in the eternal verities, for we are assured that nothing mundane can shake, or endanger, that in the least.

We wish to add our sympathy to that of the multitude that will flood your quiet hours these days.

I am enclosing a few poems, hoping you may find a line here and there that may soothe some tired nerve.

Babcock's REST meant much to me during the weeks of my recovery from my accident.

As in the last line of Mrs. Field's "Ultima Thule";

"Shall there not be for us new bourgeoning?"

Sincerely yours,

*Wm H Vail*

---



## The Abiding One

(The Christian)

Some hearts are like a quiet village street,  
Few and well known the passers to and fro;  
Some like a busy city's market place,  
And countless forms and faces come and go.

Into my life unnumbered steps have trod,  
Though brief that life and nearing now its close;  
At first the forms of phantasies and dreams,  
And then the varied tread of friends and foes.

Coming and going—ah, there lay the pang,  
That when my heart had blossomed and unlocked

Its wealth to greet the loved familiar step,  
Lo, it was gone and only echoes mocked

My listening ear. But O: there came one step,  
So soft and slow, which said, "I pass not by,  
But stay with thee forever, if thou wilt,  
Amid this constant instability."

Then in his eyes I saw the love I craved—  
Love past my craving—love that died for me.  
He took my hand, and in its gentle strength  
I learned the joy of leaning utterly.

Still do the countless footsteps come and go;  
Still with a sigh the echoes die away;  
But One abides and fills the solitude  
With music and with beauty, night and day.

—ANONYMOUS.

## The Glory of Age

"What is the glory of age?" I said,  
"A hoard of gold and few dear friends?  
When you've reached the day that you look ahead,  
And see the place where your journey ends.  
When Time has robbed you of youthful might,  
What is the secret of your delight?"

And an old man smiled as he answered me;  
"The glory of age isn't gold or friends,  
When we've reached the valley of Soon-to-be,  
And note the place where the journey ends.  
The glory of age, be it understood,  
Is a boy out there who is making good.

"The greatest joy that can come to man,  
When his sight is dim and his hair is gray,  
The greatest glory that God can plan  
To cheer the lives of the old to-day,  
When they share no more in the battle yell,  
Is a boy out there who is doing well."

—*Detroit Free Press.*



## Christus Consolator

---

Beside the dead I knelt for prayer,  
And felt a presence as I prayed.  
Lo, it was Jesus standing there;  
He smiled: "Be not afraid!"

"Lord, Thou hast conquered death we know;  
"Restore again to life," I said,  
"This one who died an hour ago."  
He smiled: "She is not dead."

"Asleep then, as Thyself didst say;  
"Yet Thou canst lift the lids that keep  
"Her prisoned eyes from ours away;"  
He smiled: "She doth not sleep."

"Nay, then, tho' haply she do wake,  
"And look upon some fairer dawn,  
"Restore her to our hearts that ache;"  
He smiled: "She is not gone."

"Alas; too well we know our loss,  
"Nor hope again our joy to touch  
"Until the stream of death we cross."  
He smiled: "There is no such."

"Yet our beloved seem so far,  
"The while we yearn to feel them near,  
"Albeit with Thee we trust they are."  
He smiled: "And I am here."

"Dear Lord, how shall we know that they  
"Still walk unseen with us and Thee,  
"Nor sleep, no wander far away?"  
He smiled: "Abide in Me."

—ROSSITER W. RAYMOND.

*By permission of Author.*

## The Anvil—God's Word

---

Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith's door,  
And heard the anvil ring the vespers chime;  
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor  
Old hammers, worn with beating years of  
time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,  
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"  
"Just one," said he, and then, with twinkling  
eye,  
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you  
know."

And so, thought I, the anvil of God's Word,  
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;  
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was  
heard,  
The anvil is unharmed—the hammers gone.

ANON.

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For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;  
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was  
heard,  
The anvil is unharmed—the hammers gone.

ANON.

## Going Home

Out of the chill and the shadow  
Into the thrill and the shine;  
Out of the dearth and the famine  
Into the fulness divine.  
Up from the strife and the battle  
(Oft with the shameful defeat),  
Up to the palm and the laurel,  
Oh, but the rest will be sweet!

Leaving the cloud and the tempest,  
Reaching the balm and the cheer,  
Finding the end of our sorrow,  
Finding the end of our fear.  
Seeing the face of the Master  
Yearned for in "distance and dream,"  
Oh, for the rapture and gladness!  
Oh, for that vision supreme!

Meeting the dear ones departed,  
Knowing them, clasping their hands,  
All the beloved and true-hearted,  
There in the fairest of lands!  
Sin evermore left behind us,  
Pain nevermore to distress;  
Changing the moan for the music,  
Living the Saviour to bless.

Why should we fear at the dying  
That is but springing to life,  
Why should we shrink from the struggle,  
Pale at the swift-closing strife,  
Since it is only beyond us,  
Scarcely a step and a breath,  
All that dear home of the living,  
Guarded by what we call death!

There we shall learn the sweet meanings  
Hidden to-day from our eyes,  
There we shall waken like children  
Joyous at gift and surprise.  
Come, then, dear Lord, in the gloaming,  
Or when the dawning is gray!  
Take us to dwell in thy presence—  
Only thyself lead the way.

Out of the chill and the shadow  
Into the thrill and the shine;  
Out of the dearth and the famine  
Into the fulness divine.  
Out of the sigh and the silence  
Into the deep-swelling song;  
Out of the exile and bondage  
Into the home-gathered throng.

—MARGARET E. SANGSTER  
In "On the Road Home."

*By permission of Author.*

## The Sandpiper

---

Across the narrow beach we flit,  
One little sandpiper and I,  
And fast I gather, bit by bit,  
The scattered drift-wood bleached and dry.  
The wild waves reach their hands for it,  
The wild wind raves, the tide runs high,  
As up and down the beach we flit,—  
One little sandpiper and I.

Above our heads the sullen clouds  
Scud black and swift across the sky;  
Like silent ghosts in misty shrouds  
Stand out the white light-houses high.  
Almost as far as eye can reach  
I see the close-reefed vessels fly,  
As fast we flit along the beach,—  
One little sandpiper and I.

I watch him as he skims along  
Uttering his sweet and mournful cry;  
He starts not at my fitful song,  
Or flash of fluttering drapery.  
He has no thought of any wrong;  
He scans me with a fearless eye.  
Staunch friends are we, well tried and strong,  
The little sandpiper and I.

Comrade, where wilt thou be tonight,  
When the loosed storm breaks furiously?  
My drift-wood fire will burn so bright;  
To what warm shelter canst thou fly?  
I do not fear for thee, though wroth  
The tempest rushes through the sky;  
For are we not God's children both,  
Thou, little sandpiper, and I.

—CELIA THAXTER.

## A Ballad of Trees and the Master

---

"Into the woods my Master went,  
Clean forspent, forspent,  
Into the woods my Master came,  
Forspent with love and shame.  
But the olives they were not blind to him;  
The little green leaves were kind to him;  
The thorn-tree had a mind to him;  
When into the woods he came.

"Out of the woods my Master went,  
And he was well content.  
Out of the woods my Master came,  
Content with death and shame.  
When Death and Shame would woo him last,  
From under the trees they drew him last;  
'Twas on a tree they slew him—last  
When out of the woods he came."

—SIDNEY LANIER.

REST.----- Maltbie D. Babcock.

---

Rest in the Lord, my soul;  
Commit to Him thy way;  
What to thy sight seems dark as night;  
To Him is bright as day.

Rest in the Lord, my soul;  
He planned for thee thy life;  
Brings fruit from rain, brings good from pain;  
And joy and peace from strife.

Rest in the Lord, my soul;  
This fretting weakens thee;  
Why not be still, accept His will;  
Thou shalt His glory see.

## **Most worthy of adoption in this age of Isms—Creeds and No Creeds**

---

“The whole Christ for my Saviour;  
The whole Bible for my Creed;  
The whole Church for my Fellowship;  
The whole World for my Parish.”

—From Saint Augustine, 354-430.



# OUR CHRIST

REV. HARRY WEBB FARRINGTON

---

I know not how that Bethlehem's Babe  
    Could in the Godhead be;  
I only know the Manger Child  
    Has brought God's life to me.

I know not how that Calvary's Cross  
    A world from sin could free;  
I only know its matchless love  
    Has brought God's love to me.

I know not how that Joseph's Tomb  
    Could solve death's mystery;  
I only know a living Christ,  
    Our immortality.

*Printed by permission of the author.*

# ULTIMA THULE

MRS. MARY H. FIELD

---

O sacred Past ; whose sorrows now seem vales  
Softened by mists that o'er them ebb and flow ;  
Whose joys are like far peaks where sunlight fails  
Only to melt in evening's Alpine glow.

O peaceful Present ; Storm and stress are past,  
We are like mariners who as skies grow dim,  
And tides turn shoreward, turn their prows at last  
To harbor-lights on the horizon's rim.

O blessed Future ; Faith and Hope are ours ;  
Around us earth is growing green with Spring ;  
Birds are exultant ; wake the happy flowers ;  
Shall there not be for us new bourgeoning ?

Written Easter 1908.

## BRIGHTEN THE CORNER WHERE YOU ARE

---

“For faith, and works, and gentle charity;  
For all that makes for quiet in the world;  
For all that lifts man from his common rut;  
For all that knits the silken bonds of peace;  
For all that lifts the fringes of the night;  
And lightens the darkened corners of the earth;  
For every broken gate and sundered bar;  
For every wide-flung window of the soul;  
For that Thou bearest all that Thou has made;  
We thank Thee, Lord.”

—Found in the 1930 Report of The Hospital  
at Miraj, India, under the charge of  
Charles E. Vail, M.D., F.A.C.S.

## The Sandpiper

---

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When Death and Shame would woo him last,  
From under the trees they drew him last;  
'Twas on a tree they slew him—last  
When out of the woods he came."

—SIDNEY LANIER.

## The Sleep

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"He giveth his beloved sleep."—Ps. 127—2.

Of all the thoughts of God that are  
Borne inward unto souls afar,  
Along the psalmist's music deep,  
Now tell me if that any is,  
For gift or grace, surpassing this—  
"He giveth His beloved sleep?"

What would we give to our beloved?  
The hero's heart, to be unmoved,  
The poet's star-tuned harp, to sweep,  
The patriot's voice, to reach and rouse,  
The monarch's crown, to light the brows?  
"He giveth His beloved sleep."

What do we give to our beloved?  
A little faith all undisproved,  
A little dust to overweep,  
And bitter memories to make  
The whole earth blasted for our sake.  
"He giveth His beloved sleep."

"Sleep, soft, beloved;" we sometimes say  
But have no tune to charm away  
Sad dreams that through the eyelids creep.  
But never doleful dream again  
Shall break the happy slumber when  
"He giveth His beloved sleep."

O earth, so full of dreary noises:  
O men, with wailing in your voices:  
O delved gold, the wailers heap:  
O strife, O curse, that o'er it fall:  
God strikes a silence through you all,  
And giveth His beloved sleep.

His dews drop mutely on the hill,  
His cloud above it saileth still,  
Though on its slope men sow and reap.  
More softly than the dew is shed,  
Or cloud is floated overhead,  
"He giveth His beloved sleep."

Ay, men may wonder while they scan  
A living, thinking, feeling man,  
Confirmed in such a rest to keep;  
But angels say, and through the word  
I think their happy smile is heard,  
"He giveth His beloved sleep."

For me, my heart that erst did go  
Most like a tired child at a show  
That sees through tears the mummers leap.  
Would now its wearied vision close,  
Would childlike on His love repose,  
Who "giveth His beloved sleep."

And, friends, dear friends,—when it shall be  
That this low breath is gone from me,  
And round my bier ye come to weep.  
Let one, most loving of you all,  
Say, "Not a tear must o'er her fall"—  
"He giveth His beloved sleep."

—MRS. BROWNING.

# ULTIMA THULE

MRS. MARY H. FIELD

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O sacred Past; whose sorrows now seem vales  
Softened by mists that o'er them ebb and flow;  
Whose joys are like far peaks where sunlight fails  
Only to melt in evening's Alpine glow.

O peaceful Present; Storm and stress are past,  
We are like mariners who as skies grow dim,  
And tides turn shoreward, turn their prows at last  
To harbor-lights on the horizon's rim.

O blessed Future; Faith and Hope are ours;  
Around us earth is growing green with Spring;  
Birds are exultant; wake the happy flowers;  
Shall there not be for us new bourgeoning?

Written Easter 1908.



# OUR CHRIST

REV. HARRY WEBB FARRINGTON

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I know not how that Bethlehem's Babe  
    Could in the Godhead be;  
I only know the Manger Child  
    Has brought God's life to me.

I know not how that Calvary's Cross  
    A world from sin could free;  
I only know its matchless love  
    Has brought God's love to me.

I know not how that Joseph's Tomb  
    Could solve death's mystery;  
I only know a living Christ,  
    Our immortality.

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975 Palisade Ave.,  
Woodcliff, N. J.,

September 17, 1934.

My dear Dr. & Mrs. Speer,

Words cannot  
express the shock and sorrow  
we felt on reading of the  
tragic death of your son.

We send our deepest sympathy  
to you, and to the other  
bereaved members of the family;  
and we hope that in some  
degree the prayers and love  
of your many friends may  
strengthen and comfort you,